

# The Universoul Circus

Metro Edition



# CITY NEWS

Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

Vol. 17, No. 33

## African American Heritage Festival & Parade kick off to holiday weekend

NEWARK—On Friday, May 5th the African American Heritage Parade Committee joined forces with WLBB and converted the Terrace Ballroom into a cultural oasis. Heritage Night conveyed the theme of Our Culture. Our Future in both content and audience participation. The evening was the first in a series of family oriented events the Parade Committee will implement to celebrate African-American Heritage.

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The evening was highlighted by an array of cultural presentations and performances. The Newark Youth Steelpan Ensemble was exceptional and radio personality and spiritual leader Minister Conrad Muhammad was both knowledgeable and entertaining. Honor was given to God by Libation presented by the Seventh Principle Dance who also dazzled the audience with their performance of African dance, drum and music. The Saints of Soul Liturgical Dancers from Community Church of God in Plainfield, NJ also provided an outstanding performance.

The event was sponsored by

Honor was given to God by Libation presented by the Seventh Principle Dance who also dazzled the audience

Shoptite and United Way of Essex Community Service Awards were presented to Newark students as in an annual tradition of the Parade Committee. This award is presented annually in tribute to lifetime community activist, journalist and 1997 Heritage Parade Grand Marshall Connie Woodruff. This award is presented to a deserving student from the Performing and Visual Arts Department from each of Newark's High Schools.

The Community Service Awards were presented to: Renee Battle, Arts High School; Marquise Ross, Technology High School; Erin Rivers, University High School; Charlene Reeves, Weequahic High School; Chardon Mitchell, West Kinney High School; Melissa Jacobs, West Side High School; Ana Rivera, Science High School; Karen Yamajaki, Barringer High School; Lydie Bemba, Central High School; Angella Othieno, East Side High School; Chaz Moses Malcom X Shabazz High School; Mikahla Smith, Montgomery High School.

The Committee has also instituted a tradition of annually presenting Brotherhood & Sisterhood awards. This honor is bestowed upon individuals whose volunteerism exemplifies the essence "I am my brother's keeper." The Brotherhood & Sisterhood Awards were presented to: Diminice Blackmon, Mentor, Hawkins, Tree School; Linda Beckerman, Mentor, Peshine Ave. School; Anna Stathis, Mentor, Belmont/West Runyon St. School.

See AAMHC, Page A8

## Candidates debate profiling

By Ralph Siegel

New Jersey (AP)—The close confines of a radio studio did not dampen the vigor with which Jim Florio and Jon Corzine harked at each other Monday in the second of their debates in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate.

As in the first debate last week in a New Jersey Network studio, Florio seized on the chance to get at his wealthy opponent in person.

Unlike last week, however, Corzine offered stiffer opposition. He was composed, dealt out direct replies to Florio's attacks and made clear statements on his proposals on education, health care, police discrimination

and Social Security.

Corzine faulted Florio for doing too little to address racial profiling by state troopers during his term as governor from 1990 to January 1994.

"I don't really think this was an issue that was addressed adequately under the governor's tenure," Corzine said, noting that two Newark leaders, Mayor Sharpe James and U.S. Rep. Donald Payne, brought the issue



Jim Florio. File photo



Jon Corzine. File photo

See DEBATE, Page A8

## The biker phenomenon is on!

Mother's Day Bike Blessing kicks off riding season



Rodney Gibbs and his son Rodney Gibbs Jr., were among thousands of bikers who turned out for this event. Photo by William E. Frazier

By Gilda Rogers

Staff Writer

When you think Mother's Day you think flowers, gifts, and the many valuable lessons you learned from mom. But for over 25 years thousands have flocked to Springfield Ave. in Newark on Mother's Day, where those caught in the biker phenomenon pray to have their bikes blessed on this day of devotion to their mothers.

"Bikers" from the tristate area who pray by the names of Jesus, Mother, and Wild Bill along with club members from the "Buffalo Soldiers" and "The Sobor Disciples" turned out this year in record numbers — it was estimated that during the day over 2000 bikes made a pit stop at the Newark Knights Motorcycle Club, which has been in existence for over 27 years, and where the event took place.

Initially the guys wanted something that would spiritually connect them to having a

See BIKERS, Page B1

## Klansmen charged in '63 church bombing

By The Associated Press

Former Alabama Attorney General Bill Baxley was 21 when a bomb at Birmingham's Sixteenth Street Baptist Church killed four black girls one Sunday in 1958, a punctuation to the civil rights struggles in the South and elsewhere.

"The killing of those little girls stayed on my mind from the day it happened to the day that I became attorney general in 1971," Baxley said. "I made a pledge that I was going to do something about it."

Baxley reopened the case the day after he took office. The probe resulted in the conviction of Ku Klux Klan member Robert Chambliss. The only man ever convicted of the bombing, Chambliss died in prison.

The conviction didn't boost Baxley's popularity in some factions. "You will pay in full, I am sure," one letter to Baxley read. "I will be home in Alabama come election time. My money and my time will be spent against you."

It didn't bother Baxley, but the fact that only Chambliss was convicted haunted him. "I knew what I was doing was right," he said. "I just wish we had been able to do more."

Nearly 37 years after the fatal bombing, two longtime suspects are in a Birmingham jail, charged with eight counts of murder — two for each of the victims. 11-year-old Denise McVair and 14-year-olds Cynthia Wesley, Addie Mae Collins and Carole Robertson.

Former Klansman Bobby Frank Cherry, 68, of Mankin, Texas, said he never saw the girls. He said Birmingham made an initial appearance in court Friday.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the four people who set off that bomb that killed those little girls have either been convicted and are dead, or either sit in jail waiting for trial. There are others who know about the incident..."

Wearing pink-and-orange striped jail pants and shirts, the two were brought in court amid heavy security and handcuffed at the wrists. They told Jefferson County District Judge Pete Johnson they understood the charges against them, although Cherry protested his innocence before attorney Roger Bass silenced him with a hand on Cherry's shoulder.

The two, the last living suspects in the bombing — a fourth, Herman Cash, died in 1994 — were sent to authorities May 17 after a grand jury returned indictments against them, stemming from a reopening of the case in 1997. They are currently being held without bond.

Defense attorneys said they were concerned about the strain on both men, who have protested their innocence. "He's ready to go this over with," said lawyer John Totten of Blanton.

Near Cherry's home in Texas, neighbors said they were shocked at the arrest of a man they knew never

discussed politics or race, who was helpful and friendly. Cherry moved to Texas in the 1970s.

"He said one time that he used to be involved in politics, but that was all he said," said William Turner, who said he often drank coffee with Cherry on the porch.

"When I got sick with cancer, he and his granddaughters came over and replaced all the carpet in my living room."

Blanton, described as a "landlord," is the son of one of the girls' grandmothers.

Birmingham's most notorious racists, Thurgood Marshall, Addie Mae Collins, and Carole Robertson.

"Pops," Blanton Sr., said. "If I ever see a racist in the city was Chambliss, but the number was 100."

Blanton, now 68, said Baxley, now 71, was a Klansman. He admitted to "a twinge of sympathy" for the younger Blanton, explaining, "how else are you going to turn out?"

The two will be tried by U.S. Attorney Doug Jones, who was given special permission by current Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor to appear in state court.

Jones said he was only 9 at the time of the bombing, and "I had baseball on my mind and not murder cases."

As a young law student, he remembered the case. He has been involved in the renewed investigation, triggered when the FBI received a tip, cannot, and will not, talk about the evidence we've got in this case," Jones said.

"But this was a tragedy of monumental proportions. It will be important for the community to try this case. This is not about Doug Jones — this is about four young girls being killed."

Baxley said he's confident Jones will convict Cherry and Blanton. "There is no doubt in my mind that the four people who set off that bomb that killed those little girls have either been convicted and are dead, or either sit in jail waiting for trial," he said. "There are others who know about the incident — and I hope their names will never let them come back."



Cynthia Wesley



Carole Robertson



Denise McVair



Addie Mae Collins



Marilyn Cooke sits on her Harley Davidson sofa, which she named "The Bear." Photo by William E. Frazier

## Newark doctors receive Essence Award for 'Building a Better World'

By Gilda Rogers

Staff Writer

"A Cause to Celebrate: Building a Better World" is the theme of this year's Essence Awards, which will air on May 25, at 8 p.m. on Fox 5. Three of this year's honorees, Sampson Davis, Rameck Hunt, and George Jenkins could not have scripted a better theme to describe their journey — from "boys in the hood" to physicians.

The ties that bind these three doctors are no different from those that often bind gang members together — love, support, and having each other's back. But instead of going down the stereotypical melodramatic road aiming daily in the black community — drugs, thugs, guns and violence, Drs. Davis, Hunt, and Jenkins decided to embark on the road less traveled, or not often read about in the headlines of Black America: "Black boys from the streets of Newark make a pact to become doctors and SUCCEED!" A story too good to be true, the kind Hollywood will parlay into a box-office hit — "Boyz n' the Hood" or something along these lines



Dr. Sampson Davis, George Jenkins and Rameck Hunt are friends who made a pact to attend medical school to become doctors, are all Essence honorees.



Photo by Dan Katz



Photo by Dan Katz

might make for a catchy title. Rising from the ashes of deprivation and poverty. From the mire of what some envision urban living to be, Drs. Davis, Hunt, and

Jenkins, are reaching out to children as the spirit of "Keepin' it real." And this message is translated as they make their

rounds speaking to elementary children by conducting motivational workshops.

"We still wear the Timberlands, drive around with tinted windows and listen to rap music pumpin'," said Dr. Davis in a candid one-on-one interview. These guys are the 2000 version of television's Trapper John M.D., with his Bohemian sidekick Gonzo, who back-in-the-day was about "keepin' it real" while tending to the less fortunate. They maybe were talking a TV series here.

Dr. Davis, who is in his first year residency, along with Drs. Jenkins and Hunt, has been rotating from various hospitals throughout the greater Newark area. Presently he's on 24-hour call every other day in Trauma Services at the University Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), where all three graduated from in 1999 (Drs. Hunt and Davis from UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, with Dr. Jenkins from UMDNJ Dental School). Dr. Davis, who is starring in the real-life version of "ER" has siblings

See EXAMPLE, Page B2

# PEOPLE

## Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

**LINCROFT** - The Monmouth County Park System has scheduled a "Rare Bird Expedition" at 7:30 a.m. For further information, call (732) 842-4000.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

**MONTCLAIR** - The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Municipal Building at 6:30 p.m. For further information, call (973) 621-4915.

**NEWARK** - New Jersey Institute for School Innovation hosts an early childhood education lecture. For further information, call (973) 621-6631.

**LINCROFT** - The Monmouth County Park System offers outdoor climbing at 6 p.m. For further information, call (732) 842-4000.

**MANASQUAN** - The Monmouth County Park System will host a nature program at 10:30 a.m. For further information, call (732) 842-4000.

**BERKELEY HEIGHTS** - Runells Specialized Hospital sponsors a liver sale from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. For further information, call (908) 771-5730.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

**JERSEY CITY** - Applications for the annual statewide New Jersey Music Competition are now being accepted. For further information, call (201) 963-1216.

TUESDAY, MAY 30

**JERSEY CITY** - New Jersey City University will hold a women's self-esteem program at 4:30 p.m. For further information, call (201) 200-3189.

**TUESDAY, MAY 30 (THROUGH JULY 25)**

**MIDDLETOWN** - Monmouth County Park System will hold a step aerobics class from 5:40 to 6:40 p.m. For further information, call (732) 842-4000.

**LINCROFT** - The Monmouth County Park System hosts a women's canoe clinic and river trip, from 5:30-7 p.m. For further information, call (732) 842-4000.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

**WESTFIELD** - National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Union County hosts a conference for World No Tobacco Day. For further information, call (908) 233-9810.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

**NEWARK** - The gospel show "His Woman His Wife" will be showing at Newark Symphony Hall through June 4th. For further information, call (973) 643-8009.

**TENAFLY** - The African Art Museum of the SMA Fathers presents, "Eloquent Threads: The Language of African Costumes and Textiles." For further information, call (201) 541-1280.

**LINCROFT** - The Monmouth County Park System will sponsor an infrared photography class from 7 to 9:30 p.m. For further information, call (732) 842-4000.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

**NEWARK** - The Newark Library Campaign seeks volunteers to become reading partners, from 6:10-8:10 p.m. For further information, call (929) 823-4001.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

**NEWARK** - The New Jersey Historical Society presents "Culture and Commitment," at 10 a.m. For further information, call (973) 596-8500.

**NEWARK** - The New Jersey Historical Society presents "Tavern Games" from 12:30-1:30 p.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m. For further information, call (973) 596-8500.

**JERSEY CITY** - Auditions will be held for the Annual Statewide New Jersey Music Competition. For further information, call (201) 963-1216.

**NEW BRUNSWICK** - The Museum of the American Hungarian presents their 25th Annual Hungarian Festival from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. For further information, call (732) 775-3837.

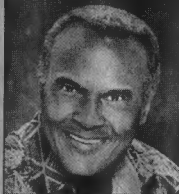
**LOCUST** - The Monmouth County Park System presents "Owl Hoots." For more information, call (732) 842-4000.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3 - 24

**COLTS NECK** - The Monmouth County Park System will hold in-line skating for adults, from 12:30 - 1:45 p.m. For further information, call (732) 842-4000.

**UPPER FREEHOLD** - The Monmouth County Park System will host "Papermaking Workshop," from 10 a.m. noon. For further information, call (732) 842-4000.

## HARRY BELAFONTE RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE



**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)** — Entertainer Harry Belafonte couldn't resist "Daay-oh!" he sang to the cheers of 185 graduates and their families and friends attending commencement exercises this month at Fisk University. The man known for his famous "Banana Boat Song" was given an honorary degree from the predominantly black, private school for his work as a fund raiser for Martin Luther King Jr. and as a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations International Children's Education fund.

In his acceptance speech, Belafonte said his involvement in social causes was one reason he became a singer and actor. "Use your voice to articulate on behalf of those who cannot articulate on behalf of themselves," he said.

He lamented the high crime rate among blacks and said more prisons are being built than schools. He also said too many blacks are not familiar with their African heritage.

"As I look upon this class of 2000, I understand that the generation before - my generation - has not delivered the world that we fantasized about," he said.

Belafonte urged the graduates to help those who are suffering, including children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic in Africa and the civil war in Sudan.

He recognized the efforts of other civil rights leaders and encouraged the graduates to make a difference in their own way.

"It is enough just to be who you are and to be that way with honor, dignity and integrity - and with a commitment to the cause of freedom and justice," he said.



## CELEBRITY NEWLYWED

**LaFace Records** singer Shantae Wilson recently married actor-comedian Flex, best remembered for the show, "Homeboys in Outerspace," which co-starred Darryl M. Bell, who played Ron Johnson (Dwayne Wayne's best friend) on "A Different World."



## A PRODIGAL PRINCE RETURNS

The 'Artist' formerly known as Prince has made a change back to his old handle. You may once again refer to him as 'Prince.'

**CHANHASSEN, Minn. (AP)** - Fans of rock musician Prince will have a chance to see where the artist works when he opens his Paisley Park studios for a weeklong celebration.

From June 7 to June 12, fans can take a tour of Paisley Park in this Minneapolis suburb, where Prince has made many of his records and videos. The \$70 half-hour tours will move through the recording studios, personal offices, wardrobe room and soundstages, according to a news release from his publicist. Prince will not conduct the tours himself.

Each night, ticketholders also can attend parties that will include Prince concert footage and live performances by "surprise musical guests," the release said. Visitors also will be asked to vote on which of his unreleased songs should be included on future albums. "He's been wanting to do this for a while," said Jacqui Thompson, a Paisley Park official.

Billed as "Prince: A Celebration," the week's events end with his first summer concert at Northrop Auditorium in Minneapolis on June 13.

## And then there's...

### RAY CHARLES TO OPEN AT NEW UNIVERSITY PERFORMANCE HALL

**CONWAY, Ark. (AP)** - Musician Ray Charles will be the opening act of the new Donald W. Reynolds Performance Hall this fall at the University of Central Arkansas.

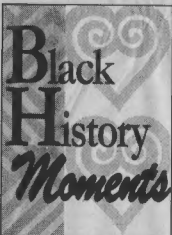
The performance hall, which is scheduled for completion this month, is being built with a \$5.6 million grant that the university received from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation of Las Vegas.

University President Winfred Thompson said Charles has signed a contract to appear at the university.

The hall is part of a \$22 million telecommunications complex, which also includes a new UCA mass communications center, a conference center funded by Conway Corp. and new studios for the Arkansas Educational Television Network.

The complex is located west of the AETN studios on Donaghey Avenue. Plans call for the performance hall to be complete this month, the AETN section to be complete in September, and the UCA mass communications center and the city conference center to be complete in January.

Mail your gossip to: City News  
111 Mulberry Street, Suite 1F  
Newark, NJ 07102



Gwendolyn Brooks



Gwendolyn Brooks, poet and novelist, was the first black to win a Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1968. She was the first black woman to be inducted into the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

REV. JESSE JACKSON



Jesse Louis Jackson was the first black American to be a non-synagogue candidate for the presidential nomination. Jackson launched a major voter-registration drive among black Americans and toward the end of the year declared his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination. Jackson finished a strong third in the 1984 election.

## Black Quotes



W.E.B. DuBois

*'One ever feels his two-ness—an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in a dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.'*

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We realize that our future lies chiefly in our own hands. We know that neither institution nor friends can make a race stand unless it has strength in its own foundation; that races like individuals must stand or fall by their own merit; that to fully succeed they must practice the virtues of self-reliance, self-respect, industry, perseverance, and economy.

— Paul Robeson

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## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### ORACLE CORP. CHAIRMAN UNVEILS CHEAP INTERNET DEVICE

DALLAS (AP) — Oracle Corp. chairman Larry Ellison is banking that he didn't have the wrong product two years ago, only the wrong market. Ellison unveiled a \$189 Internet machine Monday targeted at the education and consumer markets. The presentation was made before an audience of students at a performing arts high school in Dallas.

Calling it "this amazing \$189 computer," Ellison said the device is going to allow us to put a computer on every child's desk by 2005.

Two years ago, Oracle and Sun Microsystems Inc. joined to create so-called network computers for business customers. The machine was a commercial bust.

Greg Blitnik, an analyst with Zena Research, said the earlier \$500 computer was designed mostly to break the grip of Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system on corporate America's desktops.

This machine, he said, might be better targeted.

"We've got many examples of Internet schools that are at least finding some niche in the market, sometimes a substantial niche," Blitnik said.

Schools need products that are pretty solid and failure-proof. These types of devices fit into that market really well."

### JACKSON: RELEASE UN PEACEKEEPERS IN SIERRA LEONE

WASHINGTON (NPA) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson has called for the leaders of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) to release the several hundred United Nations (UN) peacekeepers that have been taken hostage in Sierra Leone last week.

The RUF has been accused of taking hostage peacekeeping troops who are in Sierra Leone to oversee the rebels' 1996 peace deal. News reports indicate the RUF first used up a crowd of civil servants and teachers in the capital city of Freetown before turning to the UN troops.

As both the U.S. and U.K. advised their troops to leave the country and return to Sierra Leoneans in the capital city, Freetown, prepare for a similar exodus, Jackson said. He said that the RUF is not prepared to release the UN troops and is not prepared to sign the Lome Accords until they are the only first step in the path toward peace. He suggests that now the clock has started ticking on the peace plan and getting past the negotiable obstacles comes.

"While we have every moral obligation to defend the people in Kosovo, who have been driven out of their homeland by ethnic cleansing and genocide, it is morally repugnant for us to ignore the devastation in Sierra Leone," Jackson explained. "We have seen more than 5,000 U.N. peacekeeping troops in Sierra Leone, none of them from the U.S. or any other NATO country."

### KEYES: RACIAL ISSUES HAVE NO PLACE IN DEBATE OVER SCHOOL PLEDGE

TRENTON N.J. (AP) — Presidential candidate Al Keyes on Monday condemned black lawmakers who oppose a measure to require schoolchildren to recite parts of the Declaration of Independence each morning.

Keyes said he had a difficult time understanding the "stupid" of people who "denounce the nation and say it is offensive to black Americans."

Keyes said the Declaration of Independence was crucial to ending slavery in America.

"It has been the key, the source of these battles and the source of the courage it took to fight them," he said.

Keyes spoke during a Statehouse conference at which Sen. Gerald Cardinale, R-Bergen, tried to revive his effort to get the school pledge measure approved by the Senate.

It was posted for a vote in March, but was tabled after Cardinale lost votes because of opposition from black senators. They objected to the clause that says, "All men are created equal" because when the declaration was written, that basic democratic principle did not apply to black people.

Cardinale assembled a small group of clergy, lawyers and a corrections officer, who all spoke about the merits of the measure.

Cardinale said he hoped the show of support from the black community will persuade more lawmakers to vote for the measure.

He did, however, add that, once Sen. Walter Kavanagh, R-Somerset, who has been sick, returns to the Senate, Sen. Wayne Bryant, D-Camden, a Republican who opposes the measure, said the declaration "is a prehistoric document that should be taught in its proper context."

The bill would also require school districts to teach students about the document, explaining the historical context, such as why it refers only to men, and that it was written while slavery was practiced in the United States.

Supporters say a daily recitation will help instill basic democratic values in children. They say the recitation will be coupled with lessons, making it more meaningful.

**Buckle Up**  
It's the Law and  
It saves lives

# Clinton urges support for international family planning and reproductive health



**Pictured, left to right: Secretary Madeleine Albright, President Clinton and Dr. Enyantu Ifenne, Country Director for CEPDA-Nigeria (Center for Development and Population Activities)**  
Official White House photograph, William Vasta

WASHINGTON D.C. — This month in a White House ceremony marking World Health Day, President Clinton will recognize the critical role that family planning plays in saving the lives and protecting the health of women around the world. He will call for action to address the fact that every day, at least 1,600 women around the world die from the complications of pregnancy and childbirth.

The President will urge Congress to fully fund his FY 2001 budget initiatives to address this and other health care challenges facing women and families, including an additional \$169 million in family planning assistance to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), thereby restoring funding to 1995 levels (\$541.6 million); \$28 million to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA); and \$100 million through USAID, the Department of Health and Human Services and other agencies to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS, primarily in Africa.

Use of family planning can have profound effects on

women's health and dramatically reduce infant and child deaths. Related reproductive health services promote safe motherhood and prevent sexually transmitted diseases. America has been the leader in providing family planning and reproductive health care for women and their families in developing countries, investing over \$3.5 billion through USAID and UNFPA since 1993, as well as close to \$1 billion in HIV/AIDS prevention. But, much more needs to be done.

One in four maternal deaths could be prevented through family planning. Every day, at least 1,600 women die from preventable complications of pregnancy and childbirth, almost 600,000 women per year. Complications of pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death and disability among women aged 15 to 49 in developing countries. Only 53 percent of the deliveries in developing countries take place with a skilled birth attendant. Of all the health statistics monitored by the World Health Organization,

maternal mortality shows the greatest disparity between developed and developing countries.

Sixteen thousand people are infected with HIV every day. In most countries, 40 percent of new HIV infections are among women, and this rate is rising. Half of the newly infected people are under 25 years of age. Thirty-four million people now live with AIDS. 96 percent of whom are in the developing world. Family planning programs play a key role in reducing transmission of HIV/AIDS.

More than 1 million people are infected with a preventable sexually transmitted infection (STI) every day. There are 333 million cases of sexually transmitted diseases annually.

The four most common sexually transmitted diseases are easy to cure with antibiotics. Family planning programs play a key role in reducing transmission of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS.

President Clinton's budget this year contains several important provisions to improve women's health. Today, the Pres-

ident urged Congress to support and pass his family planning and reproductive health initiatives, including:

Investment of \$541 million in family planning efforts overseas, a 45 percent increase over FY 2000 levels which restores funding to FY 1995 levels. An estimated 34,000 children under age five die every day in developing countries and almost 600,000 women die each year from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. By avoiding unintended pregnancies and helping women bear their children during the healthiest time for the mother, family planning helps prevent maternal and child deaths. The President will highlight that his FY 2001 budget proposes \$541 million, an increase of 45 percent over FY 2000 funding levels, to fund the provision of family planning services and related reproductive health services overseas and urge that it be passed without restrictions on the ability of organizations to participate in the democratic process in their own countries.

## Civil War battlefields ordered to explain the role of slavery

YORK, Pa. (AP) — Civil War battlefields, under orders from Congress, will update their programs in the next few years to reflect the role of slavery in the war.

Even at Gettysburg, where programs on civilians and slaves virtually ignored in the visitors center and the emphasis remains on Rebel tactics and strategy.

The result, said Gettysburg Superintendent John Latschar, is "a fairly distinct sense of Southern sympathy."

A conference, "Rallying on the High Ground: Strengthening Interpretation of the Civil War," was sponsored by the staffs of Gettysburg and Manassas national battlefield parks last week in Washington. It included Pulitzer Prize winner James McPherson and former park service chief historian Ed Lumenthal to discuss the central role slavery played in the war.

In a report to Congress in March, managers acknowledged the lack of social context at many battlefields, where few deal with slavery and the decades-old exhibits do not reflect current historical scholarship.

Latschar, long an advocate of including slavery in battlefield interpretation, acknowledged after the program that there was resistance to changes. He said some came from the "hard-core cannonball" constituency, those concerned about any deviation

from battlefield tactics, while others viewed it as bowing to what they called "political correctness."

A report written by McPherson after a visit to Gettysburg two years ago by three historians was critical of the emphasis on Pickett's charge, a Confederate attack on the third day of the battle, July 3, 1863, known as the "high-water mark of the Confederacy." After all, Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address, which casts the battle in an altogether different light as the beginning of "a new birth of freedom," adjacent to the battlefield.

(Visitor's center displays) offer the viewer no coherent understanding of the causes, course and consequences of the battle, much less of the war," McPherson wrote. "Perhaps if the 'new birth of freedom' rather than the 'high water mark' became the interpretive mantra, the perspective would be more accurate ... and, incidentally, might be more relevant for the majority of battlefield visitors."

Latschar said Gettysburg's 17 million visitors are disproportionately white and male, by emphasizing the "new birth of freedom" would make the park more relevant not only to the descendants of slaves, but to all immigrants who came to the United States to enjoy that freedom.

## Hemings descendants denied membership

By Nick P. DiVito

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Descendants of slave Sally Hemings had a less contentious but no more successful meeting with Thomas Jefferson's descendants for a second straight year.

The Monticello Association, the organization of Jefferson descendants, again put off a decision whether to allow Hemings' descendants into their organization, leaving the Hemings group frustrated after Sunday's annual meeting.

"I'm not feeling good," said Shay Banks-Young, a Hemings descendant from Columbus, Ohio. "We're at the same place as yesterday."

A special advisory committee

on membership that was chartered by the association last year said more information is needed on the Hemings group's belief that Jefferson and Hemings had children together.

In an interim report, the committee said it "examined a wide variety of sources, including genealogical studies ... and other information," but that it became apparent the committee "would not be able to complete its work in time for the annual meeting."

The committee promised to issue a report by next year's meeting.

At issue is membership in the family group and related rights at Monticello, the third U.S. president's estate in the Virginia foothills.

## Gill suspended for endorsing Republicans

SUFFOLK, Va. (AP) — A local NAACP official has been suspended after urging members to support Republican George Allen in Virginia's U.S. Senate race.

Paul C. Gillis was stripped of his post as Suffolk branch president last month by Kwesi Mfume, national president and chief executive officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In a letter, Mfume accused Gillis of violating NAACP policies against partisan political activity. Mfume said Gillis' action put the NAACP in danger of "irreparable harm."

Gillis, 54, a former state NAACP president, said he was singled out for supporting a Republican.

*'When I took over as branch president ... I did not give up my constitutional rights'*

On March 24, Gillis endorsed Allen, a former governor, in his campaign to unseat Sen. Charles S. Robb, a Democrat. He told about two dozen Suffolk branch members that he was speaking as an individual, not as an NAACP officer.

"When I took over as branch president ... I did not give up my constitutional rights to support and endorse anyone I wanted," Gillis said.

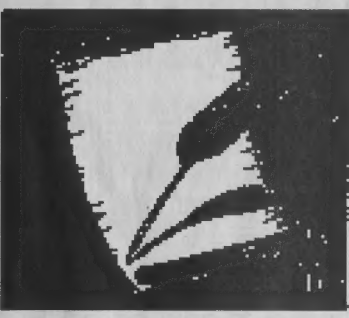
The civil rights group could lose its tax-exempt status if it engages in party politics, said Salim Khalfan, executive director of the Virginia NAACP conference.

In 1997, while he was president of the state NAACP, Gillis endorsed Republican Mark R. Kary in the campaign for Virginia attorney general. He said the NAACP general counsel declared in that case that he was within his rights.

The civil rights organization will hold a hearing to determine whether to reinstate Gillis or suspend him permanently.

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## Brother to Brother

The paper this week would have been very appropriate for a Father's Day issue, but that's not the way it played itself out. The common theme running through the pages of *City News* this week centers on brothers being there for each other. There's a dynamic feature on the three young brothers from Newark who made a pact to become doctors and succeeded. Their story is like a breath of fresh air—since any and everything that originates from the hood usually has a negative connotation attached to it. Their story is positive, uplifting, and proof that we can be anything we set our hearts, mind and size on. They were the motivating factor for each other and because of this they accomplished exactly what they set out to do. A premier example of being your brother's keeper. Then as you continue to flip through the pages of *City News*, you'll come across the story on the biker phenomenon—one big fraternal order grounded in brotherhood that transcends race, creed and color. And last but not least The UniverSol Circus, was started by two brothers who wanted to give the black family good clean entertainment, and look at what their idea has evolved into. All of these stories represent brothers being there and looking out for each other. Imagine what the world would be like if we all practiced being our brother's keeper. Awesome!

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,  
In early January—after two-and-a-half years of unprecedented regulatory review—Bell Atlantic began offering long distance service to New Yorkers in direct competition with the long distance companies. Contrary to the opinions expressed by Bob Johnson ("Bell Atlantic was headed for New Jersey?" April 5), the response by New York consumers has been overwhelmingly positive. In just three months, 428,000 New Yorkers have signed up for our surprise-free, simple-to-understand long distance plan.

Johnson's statements are flat-out wrong. Local competitors have captured more than 15 million local telephone lines throughout New York State. This non-competitive environment could not have existed unless Bell Atlantic had first taken the necessary steps to open up the market. In fact, our operating support systems successfully handling more than 10,000 orders a day from our wholesale customers.

Competition, lower prices, simplicity and fairness in the marketplace are becoming a reality in New York. In New Jersey, Bell Atlantic is leading the way towards achieving similar goals. Here in the Garden State, Bell Atlantic has done all it can to encourage AT&T, MCI Worldcom and Sprint to get into the

game. However, the long distance giants are fighting fiercely to use our network to provide competing service at or below cost. This approach is bad for our business, bad for our shareholders, and most importantly, bad for consumers. They are forced to wait for new choices in local phone service as a result of the long distance carriers' greedy tactics.

Johnson's opinion is uninformed on another point: rigorous tests are underway of the systems AT&T and others will use to switch customers to their competing service in New Jersey. The Board of Public Utilities approved that testing last September and is overseeing the independent third party analysis, and Bell Atlantic is paying millions to make it happen here, too.

All of our efforts in New Jersey are directed at bringing full competition for all residential telephone services—local and long distance. We intend to offer New Jersey customers the same basic-free policies we've pioneered in New York. And because we know our customers trust what we say because we do what we say, we expect the same overwhelming response when they are free to choose their long distance provider in this state.

Sincerely,  
William Freeman  
President&CEO Bell Atlantic

By Lee Hubbard

Alex Keyes looked calm and composed as he stood and listened to Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Arizona Sen. John McCain. And when CNN reporter Judy Woodruff asked him about the importance of the presidency and why he was running for the office, a self-assured Keyes showed his fiery side.

"Well, you make a wrong assumption," said Keyes, as he looked at Woodruff. "I don't think the president does matter that much. I am running for the office of president not because I think it's a power matter, but because I think the abuses of power [of the Presidency] have undermined the position of Americans [in regards to] the control of money, control of schools, control of their lives."

Although the Democratic and Republican Party nominations have since been clinched by Vice President Al Gore and George W. Bush, one of the more intriguing aspects of the race for the White House was the presidential campaign waged by Keyes. The race showed a spotlight on Keyes and his positions that were to the right of almost everyone in both political parties. He voiced a pro-family, anti-abortion, strong on crime agenda that made moral issues his main focus.

"Keyes has become the voice for moral issues in the Republican Party," said Ronald Walters, a spokesman for the University of Maryland.

While people marveled at his oratory, as he was far and above the average candidate in the race, many people (both black and white) question how could someone black be so con-

servative? Well it is quite simple. Keyes is a throwback to what is known as the old-time religion within the black community.

Robert Smith, a political scientist at San Francisco State University and author of "We have no Leaders" said that the type of conservatism Keyes exhibited is something a sizeable number of blacks could understand. It is understandable because it was this type of philosophy—the Booker T. Washington—that was patterned in the early 1900's by Booker T. Washington, the famous black educator, and activist.

This model of living told blacks to "cast down your buckets where you are" and deal with the problems you have. This conservative philosophy would later be called "accommodationist" by left leaning black intellectuals like W.E.B. Du Bois, who stressed that blacks should push for civil rights. But the Booker T. tradition in the black community that has survived regardless of political affiliation.

While 82 percent of blacks say they vote Democratic, a 1997 study by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a black think tank, 32 percent of blacks consider themselves as conservative, another 32 percent called themselves moderates, and another 36 percent called themselves liberals.

"Although the opinion has softened some, blacks are still more comfortable with conservatives than whites," said Smith. He said this also applies to the black community's position on issues such as gay rights, marriage, on crime, and on the strengthening of the family.

This strong line of black

conservatism could be seen in the recent California primary, where on the basis of proposing stiffer punishments for juvenile crime and banning gay marriage. They were opposed by most black political leaders but supported by many black voters. A majority of blacks voted against the juvenile crime measure, but a sizeable amount, close to 40 percent, voted for it. Blacks formed the single largest racial or ethnic bloc in the election.

Smith notes these conservative opinions conflict with left leaning black activists and the black political elite (leaders) that "often take positions that go against the black mass base."

**"A successful black conservative (politician) would have to take conservative positions on social issues and more liberal positions on economic issues."**

This is the great political paradox in the black community. If not for the specter of racism, since blacks would naturally embrace these positions and the Republican Party.

Republicans who waffle on obvious racial issues like the flying of the confederate flag, and who are more comfortable with hostile to black concerns, black opinion on conservative issues are muted. It also doesn't help that the black community, like Keyes, doesn't have a black base that backs them, and that they doggedly avoid racial

issues.

This is the complete opposite of Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam, who could easily be considered to the right of most members in the GOP. The difference between Farrakhan and Keyes is that Farrakhan is nationalistic in his opinion, while black conservatives like Keyes are race neutral, which hurts them in the black community.

"A successful black conservative (politician) would have to take conservative positions on social issues and more liberal positions on economic issues," said Smith. He said one of the most successful black conservatives in recent memory was Jesse Jackson in the early 1970s, before he became an appendage of the Democratic Party. "Before that Jackson moved up the Democratic Party political ladder, Jackson led the black opposition against abortion calling it 'America's heart attack.' Smith, Jackson is now pro-choice."

While Keyes didn't win the Republican Party nomination, and lost to Clinton in the '96, against the \$70 million war chest Bush raised, his presidential run was a sign of relief. It showed America that to prosper, not just liberals and they don't all think alike. It showed people that there are many shades of black in their thinking, and there are even those who may agree with Keyes on some of the issues.

For more information on national and urban issues. He can be reached by e-mail at [superie@hotmail.com](mailto:superie@hotmail.com) for his questions or comments.

## Conspiracy can't condone cop-killing

By Michael King

Controversy is running rampant in Atlanta's black community and elsewhere, but I can't understand it.

Jamil Al-Amin has been charged with the murder of Fulton County Deputy Ricky BROWN. Deputy BROWN along with Deputy Alderman English both officers, by the way, are black, were shot as they tried to serve a warrant on Al-Amin for theft and impersonating an officer in mid-March.

The deputy who went to the quiet, leafy neighborhood in Atlanta looking for Al-Amin. Al-Amin was also accused of illegal weapons possession under Cobb County. The officers went to Al-Amin's house and store.

When they found no one there, they decided to circle the block. When they got back to the house, the officers saw that a dark-colored luxury car had arrived.

They asked the person behind the wheel of the car to show his hands. "I'll give you my hands," the voice from within the car retorted. As shots rang out, both officers who were wearing bulletproof vests went down.

Al-Amin had become a fixture in Atlanta's West End Muslim community, and as a local spiritual leader, is considered largely responsible for cleaning

up that neighborhood. He helped to remove drug dealers and other unsavory types from the now quiet and insular community.

Finally, someone added another twist to the puzzle of Jamil Al-Amin together. Al-Amin was formerly H. Rap Brown, a civil rights leader, minister of justice for the Black Panther Party in the late 1960s. Brown was convicted and served time in jail after a shootout with federal agents back in 1971.

As H. Rap Brown, Al-Amin captivated Americans back then when he said, "I say violence is necessary. It is as American as cherry pie." Pretty hypocritical coming from a man who once led the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee.

Al-Amin was captured several days after the Atlanta shootings outside Selma, Alabama. He claims he did not shoot the two officers, and that he fled Atlanta in fear. His Deputy BROWN was a "government conspiracy."

Al-Amin's Alabama lawyer, H.L. Chestnut, not only believes him, but is also pushing a "dream team" to keep Al-Amin from being extradited back to Georgia for prosecution.

Under existing law, Brown,

or Al-Amin, as an ex-convict, cannot legally own or possess a firearm. But the law apparently is not enforced. Additionally, in 1995, the Clinton Administration tried to prosecute Al-Amin on weapons charges stemming from a previous arrest.

Sadly, many within the black community seem to be buying into Al-Amin's claim that he was the victim of an elaborate setup, feeding on long-held conspiracy beliefs and wild theories of secret plots that thrive in black communities nationwide.

He uses a people, however, cannot stand by and protect the predators in our world, no matter what the circumstances.

Jamil Al-Amin should be prosecuted and, if convicted, be sentenced to death for the shooting of the two officers and deputies and the death of one. The case should be tried without regard for Al-Amin's status in Atlanta's black community.

Those who would protect and defend a killer need to take their collective heads out of the sand and move on. I have.

## Tens of thousands criminalize a generation

By Earl Oford Hutchinson

The prison incarceration juggernaut slowed down slightly in state prisons in 1999. But the federal government more than picked up the slack. According to the Bureau of Justice, more than 100,000 of those jailed in federal prisons grew by 11,000 in 1999.

The majority of them were drug offenders. And to almost no one's surprise most of these drug offenders were young African-Americans.

Putting thousands of black men behind bars for mostly non-violent drug offenses has had staggering consequences. It has wreaked massive social and political havoc on families and communities. It has been the single biggest reason for the blues in federal spending on prison construction, maintenance, and the escalation in the number of prosecutors needed to handle the continuing flood of drug cases.

The standard reasons given for criminalizing practically an entire generation of young blacks is that they are poor, crime-prone, and lack family values. The more compelling reason can still be summed up in four words: racially biased drug laws. Reports and studies by the Justice Department, the U.S. Sentencing Commission, as well as universities and foundations confirm that.

Far more whites use and deal drugs including crack

cocaine than blacks. "The overwhelming majority of those prosecuted in federal courts for drug possession and sale (mostly small amounts of crack cocaine) and given stiff mandatory sentences of ten years to life are African-Americans."

"Only five percent of those sentenced to jail terms are major dealers."

**There is a massive and deep disparity in how blacks (crack cocaine) and whites (powdered cocaine) are being sentenced**

"There is a massive and deep disparity in how blacks (crack cocaine) and whites (powdered cocaine) are being sentenced by the federal and state courts."

Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno have given their tepid support to eliminate the gaping racial disparities in the drug laws. Yet the reconstituted Sentencing Commission recently moved swiftly to amend, revise, and upgrade the sentencing range of offenses but said nothing about amending the drug sentencing laws.

The scapegoating of blacks for America's crime and drug problem actually began in the 1980s. The assault by Republican conservatives on job, income and social service programs, a

crumbling educational system and industrial shrinkage dumped more blacks on the streets with no where to go. Some chose gangs, crime, and drugs. The big cuts in welfare, social services, and skills training programs, and Clinton administration have dumped not only more young black males but more black women on the streets.

The Bureau of Justice report the number of women in U.S. prisons has doubled since 1990 to a record of 100,000. Much of the media quickly turned the drug problem into a black problem and played it up big in news stories and features. Many Americans scared stiff of the drug crisis readily gave their blessing to drug wars, random vehicle checks, marginally legal searches and seizures, evictions

**"Much of the media quickly turned the drug problem into a black problem and played it up big in news stories and features."**

from housing projects and apartments. When it came to law enforcement practices in the streets, they have noted a wide range of civil liberties protections, due process and privacy made a mockery of the criminal justice system. Blacks are the ones who nos. Clinton drug czar Barry

McCaffrey who has mightily defended the administration's policy in the past shifted gears in recent interviews and now brands the disastrous drug policy a case of "bad drug policy and bad law enforcement."

McCaffrey has now changed bad drug policy into good policy and good law enforcement is not to build more prisons, pass more laws, or even to suggest equalize sentences for crack and powdered cocaine. This would only make more small time dealers. The answer is to shift billions from prisons to programs for drug education, treatment and prevention, to do away with the mandatory drug sentencing laws, restore sentencing discretion to judges, target high level dealers for prosecution, and end drug profiling and random stops of black and Latino motorists.

McCaffrey has now changed that policy. Until they do more and more young black men and women continue to suffer federal prison costs.

Earl Oford Hutchinson is the author of *The Disappearance of Black America*. He can be reached at [email:ehutch344@aol.com](mailto:email:ehutch344@aol.com)

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## Business

## Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

**NEW BRUNSWICK** - New Jersey State Bar Foundation will present a free public seminar at 7 p.m. For further information, call (732) 937-7518.

THURSDAY, MAY 27

**UNION** - Union County Economic Development Corp. presents "Electronic Commerce Survival Skills" at 1 p.m. For further information, call (908) 527-1166.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31

**NEW YORK** - The NYNJ Minority Purchasing Council, Inc. will host Marketing & Business Expo 2000. For further information, call (212) 502-5663.

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

**NEW BRUNSWICK** - New Jersey State Bar Foundation presents a seminar on wills and estate planning at 7 p.m. For further information, call (908) 527-1166.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

**EDISON** - Pathfinder Consulting Group presents a job fair at 11 a.m. For further information, call (732) 821-7048.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

**PICATINNY ARSENAL** - The NJ Small Business Development Center hosts its 8th Annual Government Procurement Expo, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For further information, call (908) 353-5960.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20

**NEWARK** - The SCORE Association presents a seminar on "Starting and Managing Your Own Business," from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (973) 645-2982.

**NEW YORK** - The Roosevelt Hotel hosts a power breakfast seminar, from 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. For more information, call (800) 253-1110.

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## Gabriella E. Morris, Esq. elected NJPBA chair

**TRENTON** - The Board of Commissioners of the New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority (NJPBA) approved the slate recommended by the Board's Nominating Committee at its April 24th meeting. The newly-elected chair is Gabriella E. Morris, Esq., President of The Prudential Foundation and Vice-President, Community Resources.

Morris joined the NJPBA Board in 1996 and has served as Treasurer. Ms. Morris states, "I am pleased to begin my tenure as NJPBA Board Chair at this time for NJN."

The transition to digital technology offers extraordinary opportunities for NJN to expand the services and benefits it provides to New Jersey's citizens. "I welcome the opportunity to work with NJN's growing circle of friends and supporters to provide the people of New Jersey with programs that enrich their lives," said Morris.

Other new officers include: Steven C. Fiske, M.D., FACP, First Vice Chair; Elizabeth

Thomas, Second Vice Chair; and Marilyn C. Ayres, Treasurer. Daniel Becht, Esq., and Gail Verneer, Esq., also were welcomed as new NJPBA Commissioners.

These two new Commissioners bring to the

*"These two new Commissioners bring to the Board a breadth and depth of knowledge and experience that will serve NJN well"*

Board a breadth and depth of knowledge and experience that will serve NJN well as we help chart the future for the state's public broadcasting services in the digital age," said Morris.

Daniel Becht is a sole practitioner who previously served as Assistant Prosecutor for the City of Orange, as Chairman of the Passaic Valley Sewerage



Gabriella E. Morris, ESQ

Commission, and as Attorney for the Rent Leveling Board for the City of Jersey City. Mr. Becht serves his community as Vice President of the Board of the

Hudson County Boys and Girls Club, and is involved in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Hudson County.

## Partner America launches national tour

**WASHINGTON, DC** - ssPartner America, the nation's first partnership of Mayors, government agencies and private enterprise, announced today the kick-off of its national tour to promote small business growth and development for small business owners across the United States.

The United States Conference of Mayors (the Conference) and American Management Services, Inc. (American Management) of Waltham, Mass., offers management expertise, technical assistance, education and government procurement opportunities to eligible small and mid-sized businesses.

Partner America will be rolled-out in hundreds of cities across the nation over the next decade. Initially, it begins in cities throughout the eastern United States and migrates to

cities in the West. On Tuesday, May 16, Irvington Mayor Sara Bost hosted a Partner America Small Business Event in Irvington. Local small business owners Lewis Polk, President of

*An estimated 25 million small businesses in America employ more than fifty-percent of the country's private work force.*

Aristo Crafts Trains and Howard Wolover of Saxon's Youthworld were the scheduled speakers.

This long-term exclusive partnership of the Conference and American Management combines the resources from federal and local government agencies

with the small business expertise of American Management to offer profit-improvement programs and services over the next decade to Mayors and their small business constituency.

"Small businesses are responsible for today's strong national and local economy. The contribution of providing jobs, products and services strengthens the local community's economic and social infrastructure by increasing the tax base and generating funding for the cities and towns in which they do business," said Bost.

An estimated 25 million small businesses in America employ more than fifty-percent of the country's private work force, create two of every three new jobs, and generate a majority of America's innovations. Through Partner America, the Conference, American Management and local Mayors will aggressively advocate for small business development and growth.

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## The search for New Jersey's 'Family Business of the Year'

**MORRISTOWN** - PNC Bank, the Rothman Institute of Entrepreneurial Studies of Fairleigh Dickinson University and New Jersey Monthly are on the hunt for New Jersey's best family businesses.

According to Kate Tomlinson, Publisher of New Jersey Monthly, New Jersey's economic success includes important contributions by family businesses of all types and sizes. "New Jersey is home to a surprising diversity of family-owned businesses, many of which are today run by the third and even fourth generations. I am fortunate to have met many of these families from High Point to Cape May in my time with New Jersey Monthly. These are the families that are to be honored with this award," Tomlinson stated.

"New Jersey's economy is among the strongest in the nation, reflecting the important contributions of our state's countless family businesses," said Peter K. Classen, president, PNC Bank - New Jersey Region.

"PNC Bank takes great pride in the relationships we maintain with family businesses throughout New Jersey, and will continue to work with them and the communities they serve to promote growth and prosperity."

"Family-owned businesses play a crucial role in the state's business community," said Leo J. Rogers of the Rothman Institute of Entrepreneurial Studies. Many of the state's largest and most successful businesses

remain under the control and direction of the families who founded them. It is important that we recognize these unsung heroes, which is why for eight years we have sponsored the Family Business of the Year Award."

The Family Business of the Year Award seeks to recognize the significant role played by family businesses in the state as well as in the national economy. Each year, applications are submitted for all types of family businesses. To be eligible, a business must be based in New Jersey and must include, or have included, more than one generation. The application must demonstrate the positive impact the business has had on its community.

The Family Business of the Year Award is co-sponsored by PSEC, DKB and Partners Advertising and Public Relations, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, McCarter & English LLP, and Pricewaterhousecoopers.

Nominations may be submitted by anyone, and are due by June 1. Awards will be presented at a luncheon ceremony Oct. 5 at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset. Winners will be entered as nominees in the National Family Business of the Year Awards, and will be featured in the November issue of New Jersey Monthly.

For more information or to request a nomination form, call (973) 993-5600.

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## Black people respond to targeted marketing campaigns

According to a report by Packaged Facts\*, black people are highly receptive to financial services that are marketed to them. Example: Deluxe Corporation, by creating a check series commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, exceeded their market projections by 15%.

\*Packaged Facts is a product of J.D/SVP Research Publications Group

## 2 great ways to reach the African-American Business &amp; Professional Community

## Minority Business Journal



## Minority Business Journal

The Minority Business Journal is a monthly publication focusing on minority and women business enterprise in New Jersey and New York City. MBJ regularly features the accomplishments of minority and

women businesses, information concerning maintaining and expanding business, a calendar of events, editorial and commentary - issues facing minority businesses. MBJ offers an excellent forum for classified and display advertising and special business and professional card directories. MBJ provides an important communication link in the information network vital to the growth and economic development of minority communities.

## Minority Business-to-Business Directory

The Minority Business-to-Business Directory is a directory of minority- and woman-owned businesses and companies committed to doing business with minorities. The Directory networks minority businesses, identifies minority and women businesses with whom public and private sector businesses and agencies can contract for products and services, and exposes a growing force for minority businesses to the general consumer. The Directory features listings and advertising as well as provides a resource guide for minority and women entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs to help facilitate starting and maintaining a business. The Minority Business-to-Business Directory includes listings from public and private sector businesses and agencies, minority- and woman-owned business and small businesses. A delineation of ownership is provided with each listing. The Minority Business-to-Business Directory is a tool for the growth and expansion of minority and women entrepreneurs and economic development in the African-American community.



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Minority Business Journal & Minority Business to Business Directory opens up a whole new world of possibility

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## Religion Calendar

SATURDAY, MAY 27

**NEWARK** - First Mt. Zion's Baptist Church hosts the Women's Support Ministry Seminar at 9 a.m. For further information, call (973) 242-4173.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

**NEWARK** - The men of First Mt. Zion Baptist Church present their annual Fathers Day Breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (973) 242-4173.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

**NEW YORK** - The Riverside Church "Rap Writers & Performance Workshop" will be held at 7 p.m. For additional information, call (212) 870-8730.

## Prayer Corner



"The righteous is delivered out of trouble." Proverbs 10:8

A group of men got together and told their story to the king; as a result, Daniel was thrown into a den of lions, but God was watching.

Immediately, He dispatched an angel that locked the jaws of the lions. They couldn't open their mouths even to get a breath of fresh air, nor could they yawn if they were sleepy and they probably thought that they would have a full belly after eating Daniel, instead, they must have had a miserable long night. The king also had a rough night because God took sleep from him [Daniel 6:18]. Because Daniel believed God, he was not harmed.

Well, we too may be in a "den of lions" (so to speak). But, it's ok - get a good night's sleep and have a peaceful day. God is watching - he never sleeps! "Whose putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe" [Proverbs 29:25].

## Give Thanks

Take time to give thanks for all God's blessings. Most importantly, find the blessings in your life and know that He is with you.

# Religion

## C.A. Scott, Atlanta Journalism Legend, 92

By Mashawn D. Simon

ATLANTA (NNPA) — Funeral services are being held last Friday for retired Atlanta Daily World publisher Cornelius Adolphus Scott, who turned the newspaper into an icon of Black moderate conservatism and a fighter for equal rights for Blacks. He died Sunday, May 7 at 92.

Scott, known to those close to him as "C.A." or "Uncle C.A.," steered the paper from 1934 to 1997.

His homegoing celebration was held at Warren Memorial United Methodist Church, Atlanta.

A true journalism pioneer, Scott made sure everyone had a voice during a time when African Americans were having a difficult time being heard.

Through The World, Scott worked to right the wrongs in society. He worked toward putting a stop to race segregation and violence against African Americans. He tried to make sure African Americans had access to, as he stated in the 50th anniversary edition, "constructive and inspiring news to our Negro peoples." He created jobs for African Americans, and he also proved to the nation that African Americans could produce business that were important.

"He is one of the Last Moments," said daughter Portia Scott. "His life was a testimony. He experienced, achieved and did so much; a devoted and caring soldier."

The middle child of nine, C.A. Scott was born in Edwards, Miss. With five brothers and three sisters, C.A. spent most of his childhood and adolescent years learning about responsibility and survival.

Scott moved to Atlanta in 1925 to attend Morehouse College, completing his studies in 1929.

"Daddy did not have a degree, he said he did not need one," said Ms. Scott. "He acquired his degree through his experience and work at the paper. He would say, 'Through my hard knocks and expertise by running a newspaper.'"

C.A. Scott took over as publisher in 1934, after his oldest brother and the newspaper's founder, W. A. Scott II, was shot and killed outside his Atlanta home. C.A. made a deathbed promise to his brother that he would take charge of the paper and keep it running, which he did for 63 years. The paper is now published three times weekly.

W. A. Scott's granddaughter, M. Alexis Scott, became publisher of The World in 1997, when



C.A. Scott Photos courtesy of NNPA

C.A. Scott was named publisher emeritus. One of the only Black daily newspapers of the first half of the 20th century, the newspaper is now published twice weekly.

C.A. Scott's career was driven by his dedication to his brother and their vision for the newspaper and the community. He was inducted into the African American Newspaper Journalist Hall of Fame in 1990 and received the Pioneer Black Journalist Award from the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists in 1991.

"He was extremely devoted and believed that honesty was the best and only policy," said Ms. Scott. "He also opened oppor-



tunities for a lot of people. A lot of successful people today got their start at [the paper]. He created an outlet for a lot of young and inspiring African American journalists."

Not only did he make opportunities for other African Americans, but he also saved a lot of African Americans, young and old.

Through the paper he set up a public defense fund for the victims of the 1946 Monroe Massacre, and kept a young African American father, accused in 1960 of raping a Caucasian woman, from facing the electric chair.

During a time when African Americans could be lynched for expressing their beliefs, Scott took some very controversial stands and stood strong on his beliefs. Not one time did he ever allow anyone to walk over him or slow him down.

Scott even went so far as to quit the Democratic Party and join the Republican Party in 1962. He said he believed "the party of Lincoln was the best hope for Southern Blacks."

Even though people did not exactly agree with this decision, no one tried to sway him.

"Although there were times when I did not always agree with him," said Gregory Huskisson, an assistant managing editor for the Detroit Free Press who started his career at The World, "I never disagreed with his right to have his views."

Along with running the newspaper, Scott also chaired and worked with numerous organizations. He sat on the boards of directors for the Mutual Federal Savings Bank Board, the Auburn Avenue Merchants Association, the Atlanta Chapter of the NAACP, and the Atlanta Consumer's Club. He founded the Atlanta Bi-Partisan Voters League and the Lincoln-Douglas Republican Club. He was a longtime supporter of the Carver Homes Boys Club and the Butler Street YMCA.

Scott received numerous journalism and business awards. He was inducted into the African American Newspaper Journalist Hall of Fame in 1990 and received the Pioneer Black Journalist Award from the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists in 1991.

"My father loved what he did and stood at the helm. He had a mission and a vision," said Ms. Scott. "Everyone will miss his presence. He was gentle, yet strong and protective. He was a very blessed man and leaves a legacy that will always be cherished."

Other survivors include a sister, Ruth Scott Simmons of Atlanta, four grandchildren and a great-grandson.

## The Gospel Insider



By Diane Blackmon

"Let nothing be done through ambition or vain conceit but in humility let each esteem others better than themselves (Philippians 2:3)"

### TOP 10 PASTORS & CONGREGATION FINAL SELECTION

GOSPEL INSIDER would like to thank all of our listeners and readers who nominated pastors and congregations for consideration in either a Top 10 Pastor or a Top 10 Congregation in the nation. Nominations closed May 22, 2000 at midnight. The Top 10 in each category will be announced in June during BLACK MUSIC MONTH on the GOSPEL INSIDER daily show and GOSPEL INSIDER 2000 Weekend Edition.

### 31st ANNUAL DOVE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

In Gospel music news, the 31st Annual Dove Awards were held at the Grand Ole Opry recently. Despite rumblings about their style of music, Grits won for Best Rap Dance Song. In the best Traditional Gospel Album category that included Vickie Winans, Carlton Pearson and the Mighty Clouds of Joy as nominees, Richard Smallwood won for his album "Healing." Anointed took home the Best Contemporary Gospel Album and Urban Song of the Year for "Anything is Possible." Dottie Peoples was honored with a Best Traditional & Gospel Song of the Year Dove for "God Can And God Will."

### GREAT MUSIC IN JUNE

June marks the beginning of BLACK MUSIC MONTH and GOSPEL INSIDERS Special

Salute to Gospel Music. Check your local radio listings for air-times.

### NEW RECORD LABEL FOR FRED HAMMOND

In other Gospel music news, Fred Hammond recently launched his own record label F. Hammond Music. Two recent signees to the label include Radical For Christ singer JoAnn Rosario. La Mar Campbell and Spirit of Praise have begun working on their third project. Fans of Kelly Price and Hezekiah Walker & the Love Fellowship Ship Crossroads can catch them on their performance at the Essence awards on Fox 5 on May 25.

### WINANS, JACKSON, ARMSTRONG CHICAGO GOSPEL MUSIC FESTIVAL June 2-4

GOSPEL INSIDER and American Family Insurance will host the Ladies of Gospel reception at the Petrillo Music Shell on Saturday, June 3 at 4:30 p.m. Featured performers include Vickie Winans, Sanita Jackson and Vanessa Armstrong. Admission to the 16th Annual Chicago Gospel Festival is free and there will be over 40 Gospel performances during the course of the weekend festivities. For additional Festival information check out [www.cityofchicago.org](http://www.cityofchicago.org). Special events can call the Mayor's office at (312) 744-3370.

### UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

The West Coast Gospel Announcers Guild/GMWA will celebrate its 2nd anniversary during Memorial Day Weekend, May 25 - May 27 in Seattle. The event features workshops and round tables. For registration information please contact Frank Walton @ 253-574-2644 or Zina Jordan @ 888-211-9924 or visit the website at [seattlegospel.com](http://seattlegospel.com). Penney's African American Women On Tour 2000, one of the nations leading empowerment conferences for black women, will be on the road this summer.

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## Thanks to New Jersey's Foster Parents



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# The mushroom that consumed an entire ninth-grade class.



**I**t all started very innocently with a small discovery in the woods near Memorial School in Millville, New Jersey. Biology students exploring the wetlands came upon a mushroom they'd never seen before. Textbooks failed to identify the unusual fungus.

That's when Ray Jacobs' ninth-grade class became consumed by something really big.

With the help of high-speed Internet access provided by Bell Atlantic, students found a

fungus expert at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. They took photos of their mushroom, emailed Professor Tom Volk and in no time at all had their mushroom identified. Through the use of interactive video technology, they could even ask him questions directly.

Discoveries like this are taking place every day all over New Jersey. High-speed Internet connections and interactive video technology open doors and bring the world to the classroom by offering access to people, places and ideas regardless



*climacodon septentrionale, THE NORTHERN TOOTH FUNGUS.*

of geographic constraints. Bell Atlantic's vision for the future of learning is a reality in New Jersey.

And it's just the beginning. For ninth graders in Millville, Access New Jersey<sup>SM</sup> means

instant access to a world of knowledge. Which means they can spend less time in front of their computers and more time learning from the world just outside their doors. So while some believe technology is making the world a smaller place, we believe it's making the world bigger.



Bell Atlantic's commitment of \$80 million to deploy a high-speed network, and free equipment to connect to the network, provides New Jersey schools K-12 and public libraries with Internet access, interactive video and high-speed data transfer capabilities.

Access the future.



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## Local Briefs

### MAY IS EARLY CHILDHOOD REGISTRATION MONTH FOR NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 12, 2000, Newark, NJ—The month of May is Early Registration Month for this kindergarten and kindergarten students in Newark. All children who reach their fourth or fifth birthday on or before October 1, 2000 are eligible to enroll in either the Pre-K or Kindergarten program in their neighborhood school. Children who reach their third birthday on or before October 1, 2000 may enroll in any of the community-based preschool programs under contract with the Newark Public Schools. Three-year-olds and four-year-olds who enroll in contracted centers are required to register at the center of choice. Admission requirements for enrollment include a birth certificate, baptismal certificate or passport to prove age. Parents are also required to provide proof of residency by providing a voter registration card, utility bill, telephone bill, driver's license or rental agreement. All children must meet the current requirements for age-appropriate immunizations. Proof of vaccinations and immunizations must be submitted at time of admission. Registration will run through May 31st from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on weekdays from 10 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Office of Early Childhood Education is available to answer questions at 733-6234.

### FORMER SURGEON GENERAL COLLEGE FUND PRESIDENT AND NEW JERSEY SECRETARY OF STATE TO BE HONORED

UPPER MONTCLAIR, N.J.—Dr. Antonio Novello, the first woman to become Surgeon General of the United States, will be awarded an honorary doctoral degree at Montclair State University commencement ceremonies on May 22. Also receiving an honorary doctoral degree will be the Honorable William H. Gray III, former chief executive officer of the College Fund (formerly the United Negro College Fund), and the Rev. Dr. Desmond B. Stowers Jr., New Jersey's Secretary of State. Dr. Novello, a native of Fajardo, Puerto Rico, received her bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras in 1965, and her M.D. in medicine degree from the University of Puerto Rico. She held fellowships in pediatric nephrology at the University of Michigan Medical Center, she held fellowships in pediatric nephrology there and at Georgetown University in Washington. In 1979, she joined the National Institutes of Health in Maryland. Over the next 12 years, she rose from project officer in the Institutes of Arthritis, Metabolism and Digestive Diseases to become Deputy Director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. At NIH, her special interest in pediatric AIDS came to the attention of White House and in 1984 President George Bush appointed her as Surgeon General of the United States. She is currently the Commissioner of Health for the New York State Department of Health. The Rev. William Horbert Gray III is a former president and CEO of the College Fund. Prior to his appointment, he served in the United States House of Representatives as a Representative from Pennsylvania from 1979 until his resignation in 1981. As chairman of the Democratic Caucus and later minority whip, he was the highest-ranking African American ever to serve in Congress. Gray authored bills in 1985 and 1986 that were instrumental in implementing corporate sanctions against South Africa. Born in Baton Rouge, La., Gray received a bachelor's degree from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pa., his master's of divinity degree from Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, N.J., and his Th.M. from Princeton Theological Seminary. An ordained minister, Gray served for 11 years as pastor of the Union Baptist Church in Upper Montclair, was the director of the African American

NEWARK'S CENTRAL WARD GAINS 55 NEW HOMES

NEWARK, NJ—On Thursday, May 18, 2000, State and City officials will join Metropolitan United Ministries Development Corp. in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Pearl Gardens Community, 1100 a.m. at the Pearl Gardens Model at 225 167th Avenue, between S. 13th & 14th Streets. The new street fronted Pearl Gardens Model will officially present 55 new affordable homes to Newark's Central Ward. Pearl Gardens commenced construction in October 1999 and residents began moving in during the second week of February 2000. Approximately 40 of the 55 single family homes were pre-sold. The Pearl Gardens development is being built by turnkey-contractor America's Dream Homes, Inc. of West Paterson. New Jersey Residents Robert Johnson, John Johnson, John Teaball, and Philip Gilmore stated that this is their fourth project to be completed in the City of Newark. Metropolitan United Ministries Development Corp. completed 150 affordable homes in Newark, supplying 224 living units for affordable purchasing and tenants. For example, Suliga introduced a new Metropolitan United Ministries Development Corp. construction in rebuilding Newark and supplying much needed affordable housing.

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# AAHPC, WLIB celebrate cultural pride



From left for right: Parade Chairman Donald Bernard, Sr., Marjorie Ross, Christine Magyaria, Garth Sandford and Catherine "Kitty" Brooks, Deputy Grand Marshal 2000.

Continued from page A1

Frank Menader, Mentor, Avon Ave. School, Anthony White, Mentor, George Washington Carver School, Monique Humes, Mentor, Martin Luther King Jr. School, Michele Bowens, Mentor, Morton Street School.

The evening was concluded by a powerful message from renowned lecturer Dr. LaFrancis Rodgers-Rose. She held the audience attention throughout her presentation interrupted by constant applause of concurrence, admiration and respect. Parade Chairman Donald Bernard, Sr. was uplifted by the evening and said "It was a beautiful experience to witness our friends and families, from seven to seventy years of age, culturally networking. Robbed of our history, robbed of our lan-

guage and our culture we are in dire need for knowledge of self. We must reclaim the truth of our history; for this is the key to racial self-esteem. Heritage Night is a step in the right direction: a continued celebration of our history is an ongoing need to reclaim our rightful heritage."

Last year the Parade and Heritage Festival was a huge success. Over 2800 parade and festival goers marveled as the parade got on its way down Broad Street in Newark. This year, the festival begins on Friday May 26th, thru Monday May 29th at Weequahic Park in Newark's Southward. The 22nd Annual Statewide Parade will feature a variety of new attractions. The newest feature of this year is a continued display of our past leaders. Several ten foot round balloons will taxi down

*"We must reclaim the truth of our history; for this is the key to racial self-esteem."*

Lorraine Hansbury, Nefertiti, Billie Holiday and others. The theme of this year's parade is "Moving Forward...Honoring Our Past," which signifies the long history of the parade that dates back to 1928, the year that the very first Crispus Attucks Parade took place.



Pictured from left to right: Minister Conrad Muhammad, Adrian Council, The Saints of Soul Liturgical Dancers, from Community church of God in Plainfield and Parade Chairman Donald Bernard, Sr.

*"The theme of this year's parade is 'Moving Forward...Honoring Our Past,' which signifies the long history of the parade that dates back to 1928."*

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Broad Street hailing the faces of Willie Maes, Joe Louis, Marcus Garvey, Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver, Ida B. Wells, Fannie Lou Hamer,

## Florio and Corzine debate profiling

Continued from page A1

"There was a falloff in some of the incidents that were reported to us, particularly by the (American Civil Liberties Union), which was monitoring these things. Then, after I left office, apparently there was a picking up again of this and so when the United States Justice Department came to New Jersey and reviewed the records for 10 years back, they concluded there was a sufficient pattern of this sort of activity from 1995 on."

Whitman spokesman Jan J. White said, "I guess the Florio rewriting history tour continues." She said federal agencies began investigating after a 1996 state court ruling concerning the troops' practices on the New Jersey Turnpike. "The case dealt with activity during the Florio administration, and it was after that decision came out that the Justice Department became involved," she said.

Former ACLU director Ed Martone said Florio did respond to the ACLU's complaints in 1990 and implemented retraining for troops that the ACLU helped to conduct. "The result was that at the ACLU, we saw a sharp decline in the complaints we were getting about it," Martone said. "I can't draw a conclusion from that, that therefore, profiling stopped."

The debate was broadcast live from the Manhattan studios of WLII-AM, a station that gears its programming toward black listeners. The hosts and some callers raised the issue of racial profiling, the death penalty and affirmative action.

The candidates will face off again Tuesday night at Beth Shalom in Livingston and Thursday at Newark 12 New Jersey studios in Edison.

The candidates are at polar opposites on capital punishment. Corzine said he would press for an immediate moratorium on all executions, while Florio said such moves might be warranted in some states but not in New Jersey.

"Over 60 percent of the people on death row in America are people of color. I think there is something awful," Corzine said. "We need to move very sharply to get this done, and I think we should go to a moratorium."

On other matters, Florio said Corzine's ambitious plans to expand spending on preschools and health care would devour the federal budget surplus needed to reinforce Social Security in future decades. "If in fact you use up the non-Social Security surplus for Jon's various schemes, the Social Security system will pay a devastating price," he charged.

"Governor, you are demanding this issue," Corzine fired back, accusing him of trying to needlessly scare voters.

"There is no proposal that I am talking about that cannot be funded," Corzine said. "If I want to make sure that the trust fund grows adequately for this year, I will generate that coming down the pike, we are going to have to make some small, incremental changes."

On education, Florio said the WLII listeners, "He has not come forward with Word One as to what he would do to try and improve the schools in our communities."

Corzine again was ready for the jab. "Governor, that's because you haven't been listening. The fact is I have talked about doubling the expenditure of the federal government over the next five years on preschool, reconstruction of schools, smaller class size, bringing standards to bear."

## Suliga introduces anti-smoking bill

By Kelly Foster

ELIZABETH — In an effort to curb smoking among young people, Assemblyman Joseph S. Suliga introduced legislation early May that would prohibit the sale of tobacco products to anyone under 21 years old. A study by the State Health Department revealed that nearly half of all New Jersey high school students use some form of tobacco, and 19 percent of middle school children use tobacco. Suliga, a staunch supporter of youth anti-smoking measures, cited peer pressure as one reason why youngsters smoke.

According to his bill, children will have a tougher time purchasing tobacco through young-adult intermediaries and would eliminate the "trickle-down" effect of the older children supplying younger ones with tobacco. For example, Suliga said the odds of a 21-year-old having a 14 or 15-year-old friend is not likely, and therefore a 21-year-old would be less likely to provide tobacco to

younger kids. "This bill (A-2357) will keep 18-year old students from buying cigarettes for their younger people. Assemblyman Joseph S. Suliga introduced legislation early May that would prohibit the sale of tobacco products to anyone under 21 years old. A study by the State Health Department revealed that nearly half of all New Jersey high school students use some form of tobacco, and 19 percent of middle school children use tobacco. Suliga, a staunch supporter of youth anti-smoking measures, cited peer pressure as one reason why youngsters smoke.

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*We realize that our future lies chiefly in our own hands. We know that neither institution nor friends can make a race stand unless it has strength in its own foundation; that races like individuals must stand or fall by their own merit; that to fully succeed they must practice the virtues of self-reliance, self-respect, industry, perseverance, and economy.*

— Paul Robeson

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# Mother's Day blessing...A Newark biker tradition



A 1987 FXR Harley Davidson custom built and owned by Rodney Gibbs. This bike is worth \$40,000.

Photos by William E. Frazier

*'Bikers are one big brotherhood. They look out for each other.'*

—Ray Sampson



Ray Sampson a relative newcomer to the biker phenomenon has been riding for six years. He owns an '87 Harley Davidson FXR and the freedom he gets from riding he describes as "awesome."



An emblem of the Newark Knights Motorcycle Club, located on Springfield Avenue

Price tags range from 'very mild to very wild' — \$18,000 to \$100,000. A wheel alone on some of these bikes can cost up to \$1,100



From left to right: Jasper Carswell, Rev. Charles Grove and Rev. Harris

Jasper Carswell, from Elizabeth, has ridden to the "Big Easy" New Orleans, and to Montreal, Canada.

Continued from Page A1

safe riding season," said Newark Knights former president Donald Ligon. "Everybody is brothers," said Neft Hernandez, who has attended the event for the last six years. "You have different nationalities and religions, people look at bikers as bad guys, but we're not."

Indeed, it was crazy brotherhood and sisterly love taking place on this day that would rival any family reunion. There were a lot of hugs and "man where you been, I haven't seen you in I don't know when" going on. Everyone walks around checking out each other's bike while commenting and complimenting one another on upgrades and changes made. Then, there are the ministers, who bless each and every bike as riders wait patiently for their turn. Rev. Charles Grove from Zebulon, North Carolina, along with Rev. Harris Holloway, from Pure Light Baptist Church in Newark, who just happens to be a biker, did the honors this year, while handing out crosses for a buck.

said Wild Bill. "My father rode bikes. When I was 17 years old my mother bought a car for me for graduation, I traded in the car for a bike."

Called an "iron horse," motorcycle riders also have a fond appreciation for horses, which suggests a love for riding.

"It's a natural high for me," said Yvonne Smith, who doesn't drink alcohol. She has been riding for over 15 years and is the grandmother to Destiny, who has been riding with grandma on her '89 Goldwing since she was 10 months old. "Let me explain it like this," she said: "I was on my way riding to see this guy in Rahway and before I knew it I was headed to Atlantic City." In other words Smith just got caught up in the ride. "If you have kids or a man who gets on your nerves, get on your bike and ride," is Smith's advice. She has ridden her bike as far as Las Vegas.



Yvonne Smith with granddaughter, Destiny (seated on bike) and nephew. She has been riding Destiny on her bike since she was 10 months old.

*"It's a natural high for me," said Yvonne Smith, who doesn't drink alcohol. She has been riding for over 15 years and is the grandmother to Destiny.*

*'I was on my way riding to see this guy in Rahway and before I knew it I was headed to Atlantic City.'*

—Yvonne Smith



Members of the Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club

However, the stars of the show — the bikes — primarily Harley Davidson's, and Honda Goldwing's that command top billing — were some well-out together custom machines on display. From softail frames to low riders with price tags that range from "very mild to very wild" — \$18,000 to \$100,000. A wheel alone on some of these bikes can cost up to \$1,100. The Japanese sport bikes made a colorful presence, but in no way did they upstage the vintage cruisers. And despite the differences in bikes, there still remains a common brotherhood amongst all bike riders.

Mother's Day in Newark represents the beginning of the riding season in the tri-state area. However, bike week in Daytona Beach, Fla., (the big daddy of all events) during the first week of March officially kicks off the riding season. This event draws over 500,000 bikes — an amazing phenomenon. Then there's bike week in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, leading up to Memorial Day. And "The Round Up," which showcases black riders will wind up in Texas this year. This event moves yearly from state to state, and is scheduled to take place this year during the first week of August.

Wild Bill, 73, who hails from East Orange and has dubbed his bike "Rolling Thunder" (adorned with bull horns) made its starring debut on the cover of the "Daytona Beach 2000" Biker Brochure, has been riding for over 60 years.

"Out of the 59 years Daytona has been going on, I have made 52 trips to Daytona,"

according to Rodney Gibbs, 42, from Roselle, who builds custom bikes and stated that he gets a "rush of adrenaline" when he rides, also said a bike can be a woman's worst enemy.

"There's a behind the scene jealousy of the motorcycle," said Gibbs. "I don't know one guy that truly has his wife's blessing. Women wedge themselves between the man and his bike."

And according to Gibbs this is not a wise thing to do because in most instances the bike will win.

So to all you women out there who want to find your way into a biker man's heart, which obviously is not through his stomach, here's a bit of important advice — understand the meaning of freedom — no restrictions!



Midnight, a long time biker who collects antique cars and also loves horses

*'Called an "iron horse," motorcycle riders also have a fond appreciation for horses.'*



Bikers Wild Bill and Mrs. Wild Bill stand next to "Rolling Thunder"

*Out of the 59 years Daytona has been going on, I have made 52 trips to Daytona'*

—Wild Bill

## The Lancelot H. Owens Foundation gives young people something to smile about



L-R: T.C. Carson, Queen Latifah, Newark Technology High School valedictorian Anna Bateman (holding her scholarship check), and Rita Owens. Photo by Will Frazier



Sec. Buster Soteres poses with his wife, Donna, and her twin sons, Martin and Malcolm. Photo by Will Frazier



Sitting at the press conference; front row: Rita Owens, Dionne Warwick, and Anna Bateman. Standing: Nathan Vincent, Delacey Davis, and T.C. Carson. Photo by Will Frazier

By Gilda Rogers  
Staff Writer

Special from the door, Lancelot Hassan Owens was born Feb. 29, 1968, a leap year. A free spirit, Lance was one of East Orange's finest young police officers who took pride in serving his community. A well-rounded individual, "Wink" as he was lovingly called by his family and friends — the son of Lancelot and Rita Owens and brother to Queen Latifah, lived a robust life. Lance's deep appreciation for the arts kept him involved in music and theater, besides excelling in karate and football. A character, when it came to getting a rise out of people, Lance's humorous side made him a joy to have around. Unfortunately, his life was cut short on April 26, 1992, when he sustained injuries that stemmed from a motorcycle accident.

That same character that Lance displayed in life, by helping others and forever making someone's day, if only but to make them smile was ever so present at the The Lancelot H. Owens Scholarship Foundation's 5th Annual Awards Dinner Dance, held on May 13, at the Newark Airport Marriott. The event which was hosted by Master of Ceremony T.C. Carson, whose role as "Kyle" from "Living Single," made him a household name. The incomparable Dionne Warwick, who stands alone as a marquee in the music industry was Mistress of Ceremony. This year's keynote speaker the preeminent truth-teller, the Rev. Al Sharpton delivered a message that got the crowd going. Special Honoree Awards for their unrelenting service to the community went to Delacey Davis, who is founder of Black Cops Against Police Brutality and Secretary of State DePore's "Buster" Soteres.

Established by his mother and sister to champion his spirit, LHOSF is a vehicle that's helping kids further their education and is putting smiles on many a people's faces. Long-live Lancelot H. Owens — his death was not in vain, and his mother invoked the

importance of Lance's life after death, at the press conference held prior to the event.

"It took for me to lose my own son to realize how precious the lives of children are and that we must do all that we can to help them," said Owens, who looked absolutely stunning in a body hugging halter-style black gown. Lance's life now serves to



Pictured from top clockwise: Dionne Warwick, Sec. DePore's Soteres, Rev. Al Sharpton; Lancelot Owens Sr.; and scholarship recipient Audritia Crawford, from Newark Science High School.



augment the lives of students like Carla Toppin, Audritia Crawford, Tahirah Nicholls, Nathan Vincent, a young brother carrying a double-major at Kean University, Regional Alexander, who attends Howard University and is a pre-med major, and Anna Bateman, who is the valedictorian of this year's graduating class from Technology High School in Newark, and Kelly Williams, who graduated from University High School and now attends the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, all were scholarship recipients at this year's event. And they all left the event sporting a smiley face — happy to have been acknowledged and rewarded for their hard work and efforts on the educational front.

There was a reason for others to smile as well, like Franette Washington, a former educator

in the city of Newark, who walked away with a color television set that she won in the raffle drawing. Queen Latifah, who served as life announcer, also made a striking fashion statement wearing a long fitted black skirt with a coordinating mesh print top, which accentuated the positive was off-the-hook, as she engaged the crowd with her can-



Pictured from top clockwise: Dionne Warwick, Sec. DePore's Soteres, Rev. Al Sharpton; Lancelot Owens Sr.; and scholarship recipient Audritia Crawford, from Newark Science High School.



did humor. People like Hermine King, who outdid everyone in the silent auction for the signed basketball from Stephen Marbury of the New Jersey Nets, was a happy camper. Mayor Sara Bost, who traveled from as far as Maine, Missouri, and Virginia ended on the good foot with family and friends partying hard and smiles galore!

## Drs. helping to build a better world

Continued from Page A1

who dabbled in the world of drugs, and his mother was once a welfare recipient.

Dr. Hunt, who is specializing in internal medicine, although not at the interview along with Drs. Davis and Jenkins participated via a conference call.

"You can do both," he chimed in responding to the perception that kids who excel academically are not often looked upon as being cool. "Contrary to popular belief it's not that hard. We kept our eyes on the prize. We need to change the whole idea of what is cool," as he yells through the phone in his best thug voice. "Yo man I bust that chemistry test out," as a new paradigm for "cool" talk.

The 27-year-old doctors by default have been friends since the seventh grade. Dr. Davis expresses that medicine found them and they never set out to become doctors. Rather, it was the vision of Dr. Jenkins, the dentist of the crew, who urged the other two that they all should get down and do this after a counselor from Seton Hall University spoke to their class about careers in medicine. The three were seniors at University High School in Newark in its "Gifted and Talented" program.

"Kids today are living under a different set of circumstances," says Dr. Jenkins, who hails from a single parent home and spent his early years at the former Stella Wright housing projects. "Being 13 and having to wake yourself up to go to school is different from the world I knew. Where are they to get the motivation?"

Dr. Davis, who piggy backs off his partners' frank remark,

empathetically paints the insipid picture of anguish that is strangling today's youth.

"You are your community. You can't aim for what you can't see. A kid today is put into a tight bind from the beginning. I hear his cry at night with no lights on trying to do his homework by candle. Running extension cords to the neighbor's house to get lights. I didn't set foot on a college campus until I was going there to apply."

This lack of exposure is the barrier, Drs. Davis, Hunt, and Jenkins are diligently working on to develop strategies that hopefully will lead to a major societal breakthrough — with no child left out of the opportunity loop. To some this may sound like a Utopian dream.

But in the case of these doctors who represent what it means to be your brother's keep-



Dr. Sampson Davis talks with Tanajah King (left) and Daryl Jackson at Marjorie P. Thomas Charter School in Newark. Photo by Will Frazier

because of the environment they come from. And every carries over into their daily work.

"It can be an unruly patient



Angelica Allen, Executive Director, with Dr. Davis. Photo by Will Frazier

er, their unconventional journey is a classic example of Utopia. When times were rough during their undergraduate studies and through medical school they had each other to lean on in times of need. They defied the odds and made it through — young gifted and black brothers from the hood. With the irony being that there is a lot of untapped talent that resides in the hood.

"It's stressful being a drug dealer," says Hunt, who equates life in general as being filled with stress and hard work, so his rationalization is why not do it on the positive tip — the just rewards are far more beneficial than becoming criminally entwined and justifiably entombed within the prison industrial system.

They're "bout-it, 'bout-it, down with the community, they are their community. So being able to relate to the people is just five like me. And everything is cool. The other doctors want to know how I do this," he says with a chuckle.

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Dr. George Jenkins Photo by Will Frazier

## What makes CITY NEWS the leading African-American newspaper in New Jersey?

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## CITY NEWS—17 years of serving New Jersey's Black and Urban Communities

1999 Named in New Jersey's top 50 African-American owned Business Week's Business News New Jersey	1996 Black Achievers—Entrepreneur of the Year (MCA) of Northern and Central New Jersey	1990 Afro American Award for Journalist Excellence, NJ United Minority Business Business
1998 100 Black Men of New Jersey Media Award	1994 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award North Ward Center, Newark	1989 Entrepreneur of the Year Black New Jersey Magazine, Atlantic City
1996 Corporate/Business Recognition and Achievement Award New Jersey State Conference of NAACP	1994 Best Editorial National Newspaper Publishers Association Annual Conference, Minneapolis	1989 Community Service Award Black United Fund of New Jersey
1998 Media Appreciation Award Alpha Kappa Alpha Society, Inc. Newark, NJ	1993 Best Feature Story National Newspaper Publishers Association Annual Conference Los Angeles, California	1989 Certificate of Appreciation Future Business Leaders of America Plainfield High School
1991 Excellence in Service Rendered NJ Council Large International & A.M. Masons	1993 Best Youth Section National Newspaper Publishers Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA	1989 Certificate of Appreciation Distributive Educators Plainfield High School
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1997 Media Award for Outstanding Performance in National Minority Business Council, New York, NY. Communication and the Minority Community	1992 Best News Story National Newspaper Publishers Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, Maryland	1988 Community Service Adm. Park - Neptune NAACP
1997 Achievement in Academic and Journalism Publishing North Jersey Medical Society	1992 Best News Photo National Newspaper Publishers Association Annual Conference, Nassau, Bahamas	1986 Outstanding Business Plainfield - A City For All Seasons
1997 Community Service Award Outstanding Service through Covered Black Names of Newark, NJ Urban and Special Programs for Youth	1991 Founder's Day Award Omega Psi Phi	1986 Journalistic Excellence, Civil Dedication, Community Pride Seventh Day Adventist Church, Plainfield, NJ
1996 Community Service Award United League of Union County		1984 Resolution NJ State General Assembly Assemblywoman Angela Purnell

# Heartbeat Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital hosts a cancer support group. For further information, call (732) 235-7557.

THURSDAY, MAY 25

**PLAINFIELD** — Solanta Health System presents a stroke prevention program at 10 a.m. For further information, call (732) 832-1628.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a bereavement support group at 7 p.m. For further information, call (732) 745-8595.

FRIDAY, JUNE 2

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's Hospital hosts a breastfeeding support group at 4 p.m. For further information, call (732) 745-8600, ext. 222.

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a Mother's Day program at 1:30 p.m. For further information, call (800) 334-0699.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

**NEW BRUNSWICK** — St. Peter's University Hospital hosts a breast cancer support group at 7 p.m. For further information, call (732) 745-8595.

Mail or email your health calendar items to:  
**City News**  
111 Mulberry St., Suite 1F  
Newark, NJ 07102  
citynews1@msn.com

## Cardiovascular research on blacks, other 'minorities'

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — International researchers will spend three days in Jackson discussing the nation's first cardiovascular research on blacks and other minority health issues.

"We're using the Jackson Heart Study as the background," said Dr. Wallace Conner, vice chancellor for health affairs at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. "It's a success story already to get this large group of people together studying this."

Conference leaders will work on finding the cause of disparities in health among the races and ways of developing treatments to close the gap in research on African Americans.

**'African Americans in Mississippi have a 28 percent higher rate for cardiovascular disease than whites'**

Mississippi's cardiovascular mortality rate remains the highest in the nation, according to state Department of Health epidemiologist Dr. Alan Penman.

"African Americans in Mississippi have a 28 percent higher rate for cardiovascular disease than whites," Penman said. Dr. Herman Taylor, director of the heart study, said another conference goal is finding ways to increase the numbers of minority students who pursue careers in research.

The state of health for America's minority groups is a national emergency, and research lays the groundwork for effective action to improve health," Taylor said.

The conference is sponsored by Jackson State University, UMC, Tougaloo College, and the Office of Research for Minority Health.

Representatives from Vanderbilt University, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Johns Hopkins Center, Meharry Medical School, Tulane University and Xavier University are scheduled to attend.

The Jackson Heart Study, funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, will follow 6,500 blacks to determine their risk of heart disease. Conner anticipates the study will last four or five decades.

# HeartBeat

## Lifestyle linked to excess diabetes risk among blacks

By Lindsey Tanner

CHICAGO (AP) — New research suggests that obesity, poor diet and lack of exercise strongly contribute to the high incidence of diabetes in black women but doesn't rule out a possible genetic explanation as well.

In a nine-year study of more than 12,000 middle-aged Americans, "potentially modifiable" lifestyle factors explained nearly half the excess risk in black women but accounted for little of the excess diabetes risk faced by black men.

The findings appear in today's Journal of the American Medical Association.

The excess diabetes risk black men and women face that is not explained by lifestyle factors could be due to "other environmental risk factors that are unknown to us, or there might be genetic differences," said co-author W.H. Linda Kao, a Johns Hopkins University researcher.

The results aren't surprising since overweight people get more diabetes, said Dr. Richey Sharrett, senior scientific adviser for the epidemiology and biometry program at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, which helped fund the study.

But Sharrett said the findings could have significant implications for helping reduce a widespread problem in the black community if factors that can be changed play such a big role in black women's risk for the disease.

About 14 million Americans have adult-onset, or type 2 diabetes, a metabolic disorder in which the body can't make enough or properly use insulin, a hormone that processes blood sugar. Diabetes can lead to kidney failure, blindness and nerve damage.

Most of the 2.3 million blacks with diabetes have the adult-onset form of the disease. Good diet, exercise and weight loss can help improve the body's use of insulin and usually recommended in adult-onset diabetes.

The authors analyzed data on 12,077 adults aged 45 to 64 participating in a nationwidetherosclerosis study and compared the number of blacks and whites who developed diabetes during a nine-year follow-up.

In all, 459 blacks and 966 whites developed the disease. Black women were nearly 2

1/2 times more likely to get it than whites, and black men were about 1 1/2 times more likely — figures in line with previous research.

Black women had fewer years of formal education and were more likely to have a family history of diabetes than whites. But "modifiable" factors, especially obesity, accounted for 47.5 percent of the excess risk in black women, said the authors, led by Dr. Frederick L. Brancati.

"Our conclusions regarding black women just support further the strategy of primary prevention," Kao said. "It's definitely a hard task."

"We all know that we should try to reduce our weight and lead a more (healthy) lifestyle, but how to do that — that's the challenge for the diabetes educator."

Good diet, exercise and weight loss can help improve the body's use of insulin and usually recommended in adult-onset diabetes.

Black women were nearly 2

## Alternatives for Lactose Intolerant

By Glen Ellis



The concept of lactose intolerance is rooted in the consumption of cow's milk and its by-products. The basic problem with milk is centered on a concept referred to as lactose intolerance. Lactose is the sugar found in milk. Mammals that produce milk from this lactose in their cells. When lactose proceeds down into the colon, two problems arise at this point.

The bacteria that are normally found in the colon act upon the lactose. Here, the bacteria ferment the lactose and turns it into a gas (carbon dioxide) and an acid (lactic acid).

2. Molecules of lactose cause water to be "sucked" into the intestinal tract, causing more gas and water to accumulate. This mixture brings on cramping, bloating, passage of gas, and, in some, a case of watery diarrhea. It is natural to lose the lactose activity in the gastrointestinal tract. It is a biological fact of growing up.

Researchers and scientists have concluded that most people and all animals lose lactase activity. What could be more convincing than nature not intend-

ing for lactase-containing foods to be consumed after weaning?

70% of African-Americans, 85% of Japanese, 78% of Arabs and 85% of Chinese are lactase deficient. You ask how will you ensure that you will have strong teeth and amount of Calcium in your diet is only one factor in determining how much Calcium actually gets into your body. Many of the other things we eat interfere with Calcium absorption from the intestinal tract. Among them are phosphates, fiber and protein.

In addition to these Vitamin D and hormones play an important role in increasing absorption of Calcium. A baby absorbs more Calcium from human milk than from cow's milk, even though the cow's milk contains four times as much Calcium per quart.

**Dietary Sources of Calcium**  
Kidney beans, turnip and mustard greens, cabbage, spinach, soybeans, almonds and tofu

The reason for this is the Phosphorus content in milk. When Phosphorus combines with Calcium in the intestinal tract, it prevents the absorption of Calcium in to the bloodstream. Cow milk is extremely rich in phosphorus.

Furthermore, it is clear that we really don't know how much Calcium humans need. In America the daily recommendation is 800 mg.

As we truly know is that either too little or too much is not good. We just don't know exactly how, much is too little or too much.

## Alternative medicine forced into mainstream

By Marilyn J. Kowand

Due to overwhelming demand by their patients, American physicians are starting to explore the pros and cons of non-traditional treatments. In fact, public interest in alternative health remedies is so great the Journal of the American Medical Association reported recently over 42 percent of American doctors have used unconventional practices not taught in medical school, like acupuncture, herbs, chiropractic, and meditation.

"during 1997, American adults made 60 percent more visits to alternative medicine practitioners than to doctors."

Physicians now found interest in alternative medicine may also be fueled by Harvard Medical School researchers who found that during 1997, American adults made 60 percent more visits to alternative medicine practitioners than to doctors. Surely the fact consumers paid 27 billion dollars for alternative health care the same amount they spent to see their physicians in the same year, with no reimbursement from insurance companies, also increased physicians interest in serving the needs of their patients.

Will this move to alternative health care may be just what the doctor ordered, the Harvard researchers noted a pressing concern: patients who use herbs and other alternative

therapies are not telling their doctors about it. "I was afraid to tell my doctor that I am using Ginkgo Biloba, and Sharon Jones of Deatur, Georgia. When I brought up the issue of using Ginkgo and other herbs to help improve my memory, the doctor told me that not enough research has been done on herbs and that I would be better off using the prescription drug he prescribed for me."

As a result of this communication gap it is believed that roughly 15 million adults are believed to be taking both prescription drugs and natural remedies without medical supervision on any kind. This situation leaves both traditional and alternative medicine professionals concerned about patients whose lack of knowledge places them at risk of dangerous cross-reactions from using prescription drugs and herbal remedies at the same time.

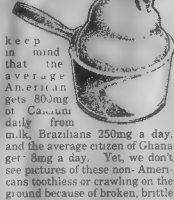
In future columns, detailed reports on common herb and drug interactions will be presented. In addition, numerous publications, wellness centers and internet sites

(www.mothernature.com/encyIndex/DrugIndex.asp) are available where qualified health professionals will answer questions and provide suggestions to keep you in the best of health.

Direct questions and comments about alternative health news@hotmail.com or visit website: http://www.thenaturalhealthnews.freelife.com. Write to P.O. Box 1261, Stone Mountain, GA 30083

I'm sure you already know about other dietary sources of Calcium. They are tofu, spinach, turnip greens, cabbage, kidney beans, soybeans, almonds and mustard greens.

Let me close with this:



keep in mind that the average American gets 800mg of Calcium daily from milk. Brazilians 250mg a day, and average citizen of Ghana gets 100mg a day. Yet, we don't see pictures of these non-Americans toothless or crawling on the ground because of broken, brittle bones.

The answer to the question of what will happen to your teeth and bones if you don't drink milk is simple: nothing that wouldn't have happened anyway.



As we truly know is that either too little or too much is not good. We just don't know exactly how, much is too little or too much.

## Who should advertise in the City News HEARTBEAT section?

Health Equipment  
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HMO's  
Health Insurance Providers  
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Health Equipment  
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Health Care Workers' Training Programs

## 100 Black Men, Jersey City Family Health Center team up to fight prostate cancer

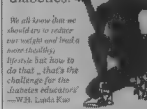
By Gloria Dulan-Wilson

Richard Spears, former President of 100 Black Men of New Jersey has announced an alliance with the Jersey City Family Health Center, and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (IMA) to fight prostate cancer via a series of screenings at a special Men's Health Day.

The event, the first of a series, kicked off St. Michael's Methodist Church, 37 Virginia Avenue in Jersey City. "Realizing that it is extremely difficult to get black men to go for their screening, we tried to sweeten the pot by offering them transportation to and from the screening, as well as free lunch. Participants also received complimentary samples of nutritional products and other samples."

The screenings will be held in conjunction with the Dean and Betty Gallo Prostate Institute of New Jersey. According to medical statistics, African American men have the highest rate of prostate cancer. It is recom-

Good diet, exercise and weight loss can help improve the body's use of insulin and is usually recommended in adult-onset diabetes.



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## Reach the \$47 Million NJ African-American Health Consumer Market

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## Mr. S



Whitney Houston Whitney  
Greatest Hits (Arista)

In the wake of the recent game between Whitney Houston and the media, Houston scores some points with her latest release, "Whitney... Greatest Hits," which demonstrates the powerful, diva vocals that have been absent from her songs since "I Will Always Love You."

Lining up many of her number one hits, Houston packs a guaranteed entertaining mix on the first of the double-disc release (called Cool Down), with songs like "You Give Good Love," "Saving All My Love For You," "Greatest Love of All," "All At Once," "I Will Always Love You," "Exhale (Shoop Shoop)," and many more. Adding to this used collection are some new songs including an enticing duet with Deborah Cox on "Same Script, Different Cast," and her duet with Enrique Iglesias on "Could I Have This Kiss Forever."

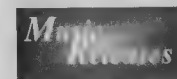
On her second disc, "Thrown Down," Houston supplies a solid upbeat selection that will certainly reinstate her diva status. The standouts on this collection include "Fine" written and produced by Raphael Saadiq and Q-Tip, "One Moment in Time," and her rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" that she sang at the Superbowl in 1991 at Miami.



Tracey Lee Go Head (Universal)

Tracey Lee, the rapper best known for his debut single, "The Theme (It's Party Time)," and his single "Keep Your Hands High," featuring the Notorious B.I.G. (with the track used now for BET's "Madd Sports") show, featuring Coolio, is back with his new single, "Go Head," off his upcoming sophomore album, "Love From The 21st." The album gives homage to his hometown of Philadelphia.

On "Go Head," Lee talks about trying to get to the top while battling those who do not want to see him "go head" to a successful career. The song, with the track produced by Dene "D.O.P." Angeltie and Henri Charlemagne, provides a solid sound for the even-temper song, but does not distinguish itself from the other tracks to establish its own recognizable and entertaining sound.



"The Marshall Mathers LP" Eminem Interscope

"Masterpiece Theater" En Vogue Elektra

"Lucy Pearl" Lucy Pearl Beyond

"Soul Train 1970 & 1971" Various Artists Rhino

"Every Motown Hit" Great Motown Marvin

"Last Days (Live)" Marvin Gaye

## Joplin meets Aretha through Nina Storey's 'Shades'

By Rob Williams  
Staff Writer

When you ask singer Nina Storey about working with children, she seems almost as excited about that topic as she is about her new album, "Shades."

"I believe so strongly in encouraging kids. You put an idea in a kid's head and they will run with it," Storey said.

Storey, 26, not only speaks as a teacher, but as an example as well.

"I didn't have any training growing up, but my choir teacher was pivotal in me pursuing a music career."

"When I met him, he said 'you have a good voice,' and because he put that in my head, nothing could stop me," Storey said. And from the looks of things nothing is stopping Storey from success, as she is currently promoting her latest writing.

"Shades," which was released this year on Red Lady Records and has drawn comparisons of Storey to legendary artists like Janis Joplin, Anne Lennox, and Aretha Franklin, to name a few.

"It's a tremendous compliment to be in the same sentence with them is pretty incredible," Storey during a telephone interview from her hotel room in New York.

Storey is quickly becoming known for her powerful voice and ability to hold strong notes for immeasurable lengths of time, ensuring a promising career that could end up at a VH1 Divas Special next to Monica and Aretha Franklin.

One strong influence on Storey's music style can be traced to her upbringing, which involved watching her mother, Jan Storey, and her father, Bill

Storey, work with a lot of R&B and gospel singers when she was young. Jan worked as a producer with many international artists, and her father worked as an engineer, touring with Frank Sinatra, Johnny Mathis, and other. Although she grew up around music, she did not seriously start pursuing her career until she experienced recording in studio.

"There was a situation in which they needed a singer, and I had been singing a little bit in school. My mother said 'my daughter was interested in singing this,'" Storey said.

After that, she began to learn the music process, and watched her parents and the musicians work.

"I would just sit in on the session while she worked on some R&B songs. I was also exposed to a lot of writing, and the process of writing," Storey said.

So on a Storey released her first album, "Guilt and Honey," in 1993 on Red Lady Records. She eventually toured Europe, and performed in Spain and Macedonia.

While on tour, she also wrote more material and recorded live collection that eventually became the material for "Shades: The Live CD," released in 1995.

Yet, it would not be until five years later that Storey would release her next album, "Shades."

Why the wait? "Money," Storey replied. "Shades" was recorded in 1997, so I have been promoting



Nina Storey Photo courtesy of Shore Fire Media

"Shades" for three years now. It's been a beautiful gift. It is being welcomed as good music, reaffirms my belief in this project. We put so much work and love in the music. Everything from the creation of the music and the promotion, it is the product of hard work."

But the wait seemed worth it, as she now has three albums and various touring experience, including the famed Lollith Fair

concert, under her belt. But more importantly, through her experiences she has learned how to become more involved with her music to get it at the level she wants.

"When I released the first record all the songs were written by me. But I've learned so much about instrumentation and orchestration, and I was really tuned in to writing song," Storey said.

Through all the accolades for her talent and what she has learned along the way, the most flattering comments do not come from famous music peers, but not-so-well-known fan whose is just as flattered to meet her.

"It's a really good feeling, but it is just as important to me for people to hear. For a teenage boy to give it up and say 'I love your music' is huge," Storey said.

## MUSIC NOTES

### Brandy to receive Governors Award

Singer and actress Brandy will receive the Governors Award from the Los Angeles

Recording Academy at its annual membership luncheon June 15.

Others to be honored include Warner/Chappell Music CEO Les Eider, notes producer and composer David Foster, and pianist-producer James Newton-Howard at the ceremony scheduled to take place at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

The Governors Award honors long-standing members of the oldest chapter in the Recording Academy whose achievements have in some way affected the landscape of music.



Brandy Courtesy of the African Heritage Network

### Temptations prepare for 57th album release

The Temptations are getting ready to release its 57th album, "Ear Resistant," this month. Adding their name to the list of older groups recruiting younger talent for a more modern sound, the first track "I'm Here," produced by singer Joe was written and co-produced by Gerald Levert and Narada Michael Walden.

The group also earned an achievement when its last album, "Phoenix Rising," was nominated for two Grammys in 1999 and was the first album from the group to reach plat-

inum in its 40-year career.

In a statement issued by founding member Otis Williams, The Temptations, (who have seen 19 different singers), credited their longevity to not having any one man shine and focusing on working as a group.

### FTC to lower CD prices

The Federal Trade Commission agreed to lower the price of music CDs this month as the result of a settlement reached with major music companies.

The decision came about after federal charges were levied on major music companies for a practice called "minimum pricing" in which distributors compel retailers to sell CDs at or above a fixed price.

In return the industry underwrites a substantial amount of retailers' advertising.

The government accused distributors and retailers of keeping CD prices so high because they were trying to avoid the price wars that took place in the early 1990s, where consumer were paying as little as \$9.99 for a CD. CDs at that time now priced between \$14 and \$17.

The FTC estimated the pricing practice has cost consumers at least \$450 million in the past three years. The settlement calls for record companies not to use this practice for the next seven years. Due to the fact that the case was settled, record companies will not have to pay any penalties on past actions.

## 100 BLACK MEN

### 100 Black Men of America 14th Annual National Conference

presents a

## Black Tie Gala

featuring

### The Isley Brothers

June 10, 2000

8:00 p.m.

New Jersey Performing Arts Center  
Newark, New Jersey

Charitable Contribution: \$150

Dinner and Performance

For tickets call: 1-800-GO-NJPAC

For further information call:

100 Black Men of New Jersey  
at  
973-678-6522



# UniverSoul Circus

*The only African American owned and operated big-top style travelling circus*

By Sakina Spruell  
Correspondent

The UniverSoul circus came to town last week and entertained a Newark audience with all the soulful ingredients needed for a good time. The only African-American owned and

brothers rode bikes across the tight rope with a pole suspended between the two of them, which carried another brother as he sat in a chair. Before the family reached the end of the rope, the DJ lowered the music, and the crowd chanted the chorus, "Maria, Maria."

The entire production was educational as well as entertaining. For the finale, the Latino high-wire family had the crowd countdown in Spanish as they balanced one another six men high.

"Always have faith and prayer, and like the Willy's always depend on family," exclaimed the ringmaster at the conclusion of the high wire show.

Ringmaster and co-founder, Cal "Casual Cal" DuPree, often gave positive messages to the youth in the crowd and his messages were always well received.

After the Acrobatic poodle show from Chile performed, Casual Cal made the show a little more interactive. He beckoned Justin, a young audience member front and center and had him play ringmaster. At the end of the entertaining portrayal of ringmaster by the

ten year-old, Casual Cal had Justin thank the woman that arranged for him and 47 others to attend the show.

Then it was back to show time.

With the hip-hop sounds of DMX reverberating through the big-top tent, the ringmaster lead the crowd in song. "Y'all gonna make me loose my mind, up in here, up in here," chanted youth from the stands along with DMX's record "Party It Up."

DuPree and his partner Ce'ric Walker began the circus endeavor seven years ago to offer clean, family entertainment.

"We started this because there are few black family events in the whole-wide world. We wanted something that was ours, and we wanted something that was universal," said Casual Cal while sitting on a go-cart at intermission.

Sporting gold MC Hammer pants, and a broke down straw hat, Casual Cal played both of his roles — backstage director and in the ring he humored, lectured, and hosted a party.

"We got something for everybody," pledged Casual Cal at the beginning of Act 2. "Everyone 30 and older, stand up and clap," he directed.

Then the lights went down, and "Before I Let Go" by Frankie Beverly and Maze brought parents and old heads to their feet.

But the breathtaking part was to follow. The doors opened and three elephants with show-



The Art of Balance from Havanah, Cuba

girls entered the intimate ring. The crowd was a lot more silent as they watched in awe as the elephants followed directions from their trainer.

Staying on a serious note, the production's finale was a church sermon with gospel music ranging from Mahalia Jackson to Kirk Franklin.

"We continue to support this Circus not only because it's an exciting show that draws thousands of enthusiastic viewers of all ages to its big top, but also because it makes a positive economic impact in every community it touches," said Leslie Blackmon of Honesyunt Cheerios. This is the fourth consecutive year that the General Mills brand supported the circus as a sponsor.

Because of corporate sponsorship the circus was able to expand its schedule this year to a 32-city tour with more acts.

"Our expanded schedule reflects the growing universal



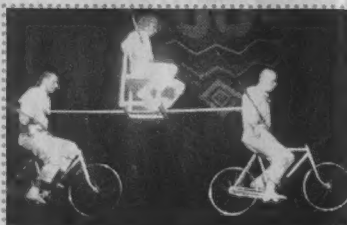
The Oldest acrobatic poodles from Santiago, Chile



The Malat Duo, contortionists from Johannesburg, South Africa

operated big-top style travelling circus was complete with acrobats, contortionists, elephants and chimpanzees, but it was the familiar music of Michael Jackson, Marvin Gaye and Hip-Hop artists like DMX that brought the unique cultural element that gave Saturday's crowd a reason to clap and sing along.

To the sounds of Carlos Santana and Wyckle Jean, a Columbian family rode bicycles across the high wire, as well as moon-walked the wire. At one point, one of the Willy family members revolved on a hoop around the wire. Two of the



The Willy Family, high wire acrobats from Columbia, South America



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# CLASSIFIED/LEGAL

## REQUIRE FOR PROPOSALS

The Housing Authority of the City of Long Branch (hereinafter called the Authority) invites proposals from qualified firms to perform the following services: Planning and Compliance Audit of Authority Programs for the year period July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000 and reevaluation for the period of July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. Only sealed proposals from qualified professional accounting/firm will be accepted until 3:00 P.M. (prevaling time) on Friday, June 9, 2000 in the Authority's Administrative Office, P.O. Box 337, (Barfield Court) Long Branch, N.J. 07740.

The successful firm should be prepared to begin by September 15, 2000 with the FY 2000 final audit and compliance audit for submission to the HUD Regional Inspector General for Audit by January 1, 2001. The audit must be performed in accordance with the U.S. General Accounting Office, Standards for Audit of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions, the sample audit Act of 1986, HUD Handbook 7476.1, Audit of Public Housing Agencies, the provisions of OMB Revised Circular A-133, Audits of State, Local Governments and Non-Profit Organizations, HUD Notice PIH 99-24, Compliance Supplement for Annual Audits of Public Housing Agencies, the Local Authorities Fiscal Control Law 40A-54-1518, and the New Jersey Administrative Code 17:27-1.7.8.

Interested firms should contact the Authority's Finance Department (732) 222-2747 extension 118 in order to request the proposal package for this contract.

No proposal shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to June 9, 2000 without written consent to the Authority. The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any informalities in this proposal process.

By: William J. Lau, Executive Director

\$102.38

## REQUIRE FOR PROPOSALS

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By: William J. Lau, Executive Director

\$68.31

## ADVERTISE

### HUMAN RESOURCES VICE PRESIDENT

Luthanen Social Ministries of NJ, a faith-based Social service health care agency seeks a VP of Human Resources. JPAHR reports to the President/CEO working closely with Sr. Management team to lead the HR function and to create a future oriented strategic plan. The VP/HR is responsible for a full range of human resource and organizational concerns: recruitment, employee labor relations/complaints/turnover plan, employee performance review, employment law compliance, employee training, recognition and development. Qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in HR or a related field, MBA or other related graduate degree preferred and 15 years progressive management experience in all aspects of HR. Experience in health related fields and collective bargaining agreement negotiations a plus. Must have demonstrated ability to be a change agent. LSA/NJ offers a competitive salary and benefits, and is an EO/DFW. To apply, fax and send a resume and letter of interest to:

President/CEO

Luthanen Social Ministries of New Jersey  
120 Route 18, Yardville, NJ 08820  
Fax: 609-885-0811

### SOCIAL WORK

#### FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY COORDINATOR

Public Agency seeks Coordinator to develop program to assist in the selection and training of public housing residents and housing subsidy recipients. Provide coordination of services including schooling, job skills, daycare, transportation, financial/budget counseling, etc. Must have computer skills. Background in social work or low income housing administration a plus. Benefit/benefit package.

Send resume by 6/5/00:

Housing Authority of the City of Passaic  
333 Passaic St., Passaic, NJ 07655-6888  
Attn: Sandra Ortiz

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## OFFICE SPACE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The New Brunswick Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the "NBHA" is soliciting proposals for rental of general office space, to relocate their current main offices. Further information about the NBHA, the scope of services, the proposal evaluation criteria and the proposal contract can be obtained from the NBHA at 16 Van Dyke Ave., New Brunswick, New Jersey, 08901 or by having a request for information about the RFP for Office Space to 732-214-8505. Requests should be made for a copy of the Instructions to Proposers - RFP for Office Space. Proposals submitted without due regard to the Instructions to Proposers for RFP Space, will not be considered.

Proposals are due at the above address including an original and four copies no later than 3:00 p.m., June 16, 2000. Envelopes containing the proposals should be clearly marked.

Kevin Cuneo  
Executive Director

\$29.71

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

F. Monks & Contracting Co., Inc. has been awarded the 1999 Drainage Improvement, No. Waikanae, Creek area, Borough of Keanburg Project. We are currently seeking qualified subcontractors to provide the following: VESICULOSIS Subcontractors and suppliers. The project consists of 8,000 LF of 15 in. to 30 in. RCP, 4,000 tons BSPP and 4,000 tons of BSPP. We are looking for landscaping subcontractors, street sweeper, pipe suppliers, and all other applicable material suppliers. We are an equal opportunity employer who welcome all experienced construction-related applicants to our firm. Phone (732) 293-0885 Fax (732) 293-0887 direct all responses to Complete Office #1, 213.

\$37.35

## IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF LOWENDES COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

### IN THE MATTER OF:

L.W.  
Juvenile Case No.: 99-963-19

DCD 5215161  
FEMALE: Female

L.W.  
Juvenile Case No.: 99-963-21

DCD 5215162  
FEMALE: MALE

## NOTICE OF SUMMONS

TO: ROSSILAND WHITE and the unknown biological father(s)  
You are hereby notified that the above-styled action seeking to terminate your parental rights and sole custody of said children with the Georgia Department of Human Resources, acting through the Lowen County Department of Family Children Services, was filed in said Court on December 30, 1998, and that by reason of the Order for Service by Publication entered in said Court on February 29, 2000, you are hereby summoned and required to file with the Clerk of said Court and serve upon

CHARLES A. REDDICK, Attorney for Petitioner, whose address is P.O. Box 515, Hiramville, Georgia 31761, an answer to the Petition, within sixty (60) days of the date of the Order for Service by Publication. A copy of the Petition is attached to this Summons or if this Summons is served by publication, a copy of the Petition can be obtained from the Clerk of said Court during business hours.

This is a Summons requiring you to be in Court. If you fail to come to Court as required, you may be held in Contempt of Court and punished accordingly.

A date is in hearing on Motion for Discovery, Motion to Amend to Court and Motion to Enjoin in this matter is scheduled for the 23rd day of May, 2000 at 3:00 o'clock p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center/Courthouse, 111 Rowell Road, Valdosta, Georgia.

The Final Hearing in this matter is scheduled for the 15th day of July, 2000 at 3:00 o'clock p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center/Courthouse, 111 Rowell Road, Valdosta, Georgia.

Now, therefore, you the party named above, are commanded to be and appear on the date and time stated above and remain in attendance from hour to hour day to day, month to month, year to year and time to time as the case may be continued, and until discharged by the Court, and you are commanded to try and all other business aside and to be and appear before the Juvenile Court of Lowen County, Georgia, located at the Law Enforcement Center/Courthouse, on the date and time specified in this Summons, and you the said parent, guardian or legal custodian are likewise heavily cautioned that should you fail to appear with the aforesaid children and the said parent and places herein stated, each of you and then and there to make defense thereto and to show cause why the said children and any persons named herein should not be dealt with according to the provision of the law.

Should you fail to appear at the above-mentioned hearing, the Court entered pursuant to the hearing will be made the Final Order of the Court.

In accordance with O.C.G.A. 15-11-810(b), you are hereby notified that these proceedings and the hearing specified herein are for the purpose of terminating your parental rights.

TO THE PARENT, AN ORDER TERMINATING THE PARENTAL RIGHTS OF A PARENT TERMINATES ALL HIS RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE CHILD AND ALL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE CHILD TO THE PARENT ARISING FROM THE PARENTAL RELATIONSHIP, INCLUDING RIGHTS OF VISITATION. YOU ARE THEREAFTER NOT ENTITLED TO NOTICE OF PROCEEDINGS, FORTHWITH ADVICE OF THE CHILD BY THE COURT, NOR DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILD OR TO INTERFERE WITH THE PROCEEDINGS. O.C.G.A. 15-11-81.

You are entitled to counsel in these proceedings. Should you be unable to afford counsel, you will be appointed for you.

WITNESS the Honorable O. Wayne Elbert, Judge of Juvenile Court, on this 16 day of May, 2000.

Clerk, Juvenile Court of Lowen County, Georgia

\$20.81

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF PLAINFIELD, PLAINFIELD, NJ

The Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Executive Director to direct and be responsible for all aspects of operations, including but not limited to: finance, property management, modernization and resident services. The Authority manages 452 low rent housing units and administers 688 Section 8 Vouchers. A candidate for Executive Director must have knowledge of federal, public and other housing programs, other affordable housing programs and community development. Proven program and personnel management skills required; leadership ability and a drive to get things done, collaborative work with other agencies. Must have a Bachelor's college degree in public administration, social science or other appropriate program and five years experience in public administration, public finance, realty or similar professional employment. A master's degree in an appropriate program may substitute for two years of that experience. The Executive Director reports to a seven-member Board of Commissioners and serves as its Secretary/Treasurer. For consideration, send a resume in confidence to: Mr. Robert J. Thompson, Executive Director, Housing Authority of Plainfield, 510 East Front Street, Plainfield, New Jersey 07050. Applications will be accepted until June 15, 2000.

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## ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE AND NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given, that sealed proposals for Replacement of Joint sealers and Masonry Repairs at 31 Early Street, will be received by The Morristown Housing Authority on Wednesday, June 14, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. prevailing time, at 31 Early Street, Morristown New Jersey 07960. Said bids shall be publicly opened and read aloud.

The Project generally includes the removal and replacement of sealants joints at all exterior doors, windows, coping, relieving angles, expansion and control joints and repairs to the masonry facade.

Plans and Specifications may be obtained at the Morristown Housing Authority office during normal business hours, for a non-refundable fee of sixty-five dollars (\$65.00). The Form of Proposal shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name and address of the bidder on the outside and addressed to the Morristown Housing Authority. The envelope shall also indicate "Bids for Replacement of Joint Sealers and Masonry Repairs at 31 Early Street". Bids shall be hand delivered or mailed to the Authority offices at the address set forth above. It is the Bidder's responsibility to assure that their bid is received by the Authority by the time and date established above.

The Housing Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or without award for sixty (60) days after the date of opening of bids.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check, cash or bid bond in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the bid as a guarantee that, in case the bidder is awarded the Bid, they will, within fourteen (14) days thereafter, execute such contracts and furnish satisfactory Performance Bonds and Insurance Certificates as required by the Contract Documents. Upon failure to do so, this Bidder shall forfeit the deposit as liquidated damages.

Each bid must also be accompanied by a Certificate of Consent of Surety from a bonding company licensed to do business in the State of New Jersey, guaranteeing that if the proposal of the bidder is accepted, the bonding company will furnish a Performance and Payment Bond in the full amount of the Contract Amount.

## BY ORDER OF THE MORRISTOWN HOUSING AUTHORITY.

David Gardner  
Executive Director

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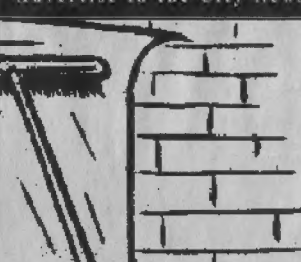
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Newark, NJ 07102

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# City Sports

## Ponder This... A new day dawns on an old knight

Poor Bobby Knight, it appears that the volatile Indiana University head basketball coach has a problem controlling his temper when he's right.

On its face, that remark may smack of hubris and arrogance, but that statement essentially represents the rationale Knight put forth last week in support of his feeble apology of sorts. For his various misdeeds, Knight ultimately received a three-game suspension and a \$50K fine, a virtual slap on the wrist for a man who reportedly earns over \$1 million dollars a year.

More importantly, the Knight controversy illustrates the enormous power which a successful college coach can amass and eventually abuse.

During his 29 seasons at Indiana University, Bobby Knight managed to compel the Indiana University community to embrace a form of basketball Buddhism because he has in fact evolved into a sacred cow. Don't believe it? Just venture into Indiana and witness the emotions which are inflamed at the mere suggestion or hint that Knight should be fired. Recently, I was watching some students at Ball State in Indiana protesting against the prospect of a Knight firing.

The fact of the matter is that Bobby Knight enjoys an extraordinary reservoir of goodwill within the State of Indiana. Indiana

Knight's cognizance of his status as an Indiana icon is precisely the reason why all this talk of him being a man of integrity, and personal honor is a bunch of bunk. Knight is a shaman and an unmitigated hypocrite because it is clear that his recognition of his popularity has emboldened him to behave in an increasingly belligerent manner. Knight knew that even if he threw a chair during a game, that he wouldn't touch the cow. Knight knew that even if he kicked, headbutted or choked a player, they couldn't touch the cow. Knight recognized that even if he waved soiled toilet paper in the faces of his young athletes, they couldn't touch him. Knight is a hypocrite because for all his exhortations about the importance of academics, for all of his blusterings regarding the importance of ennobling the "student" part of the term "student-athlete," he knew that the basketball program was the sacred cow, the central entity at Indiana University. And Knight knew that by extension, that fact made him the most important guy at the University. Knight not only knew it, he exploited it. For nearly 29 years, Knight behaved like the 600 pound gorilla for reasons which contradict his public stances that college athletes should always remain subservient to the higher mission of a college or university.

However, when Knight's behavior diminished the dignity of Indiana University, for some reason he was expected and received special treatment which he would have never extended to a sharp shooting player who attempted to leverage his talent to avoid going to class of following other rules. However, during his many years as a head coach at Indiana, Knight knew that as long as he won, he could get away with almost anything. And for 29 years, he has.

In defense of the sacred cow, Knight defenders like to cite the fact that he's never broken any NCAA rules. Unfortunately the NCAA does not regulate dignity, humility and decency, because if it did, Bobby Knight would have lost his job a long time ago. By the time this column hits the newstands, Michael Jordan will have hired Steve Nash as head coach Mike Jarvis to help turn around the long suffering Washington Wizards. Excellent choice. Jarvis has the uncanny ability to relate to and engender the respect of young athletes. Since the flood of early entry candidates is turning the NBA into a younger league, this ability to relate is critically important if coaches are to succeed and motivate these younger players. A Washingtonian for eight years as the head coach of George Washington University between 1990-98, Jarvis should step up and again become a fixture in the DC sports.

## Backs have a showing at Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, KY — Marlon St. Julien recently became the first black jockey in 79 years to race in the Kentucky Derby Festival. He placed seventh and rode Curule, a 50-to-1 long shot, according to a recent report in Jet magazine.

Meanwhile William E. Summers IV was the chairman for the board of the Kentucky Derby Festival. He's the second black to chair the event; his father, William E. Summers was the first.

It was a time when black jockeys dominated the Kentucky Derby early on. According to Jet, 13 of the 15 riders in the first Derby held in 1875 were black. And they won 15 of the Derby's first 28 runnings. St. Julien accomplished something that has not been done since 1921 — to compete in the prestigious Kentucky Derby.

St. Julien, who won his first career title in 1997 at Lone Star Park in Texas, set a record earning \$1.7 million last year his feat of winning 165 races earned him more than \$5.1 million. He



won three victories at Churchill Downs and has all but quieted people who thought he could not excel in the white-dominated

sport. Summers IV is hoping that more blacks begin to look at horse racing as a lucrative profession.

He will become past chair and chair of the Derby's Festival Foundation, the non-profit link of the Kentucky Derby.

## NUE-TV signs pact to broadcast black athletics

WASHINGTON, DC — New Urban Entertainment Television (NUE-TV) announced a three-year agreement with the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference to be the "exclusive urban ethnic content distributor" of televised football and basketball games and other sports programming. NUE-TV, a subsidiary of Space Station Television, will launch this summer and begin this affiliation in September by airing the MEAC Football Game of the Week.

"Our agreement with MEAC is the essence of what NUE-TV will bring to the community — quality television programming for people of color," Robert Townsend, chief operating officer of NUE-TV and SSTV.

"Through its top-notch athletic programs, outstanding student-athletes and strong academic program, MEAC schools have consistently demonstrated a commitment to excellence," added Townsend, a graduate of Howard University, a MEAC institution. "Achieving excellence is also the goal of NUE-TV, which makes this an ideal partnership."

MEAC is Division I conference based in Greensboro, NC. Its 11 members institutions are Bethune-Cookman, Coppin State, Delaware State, Florida A&M, Hampton University, Howard University, Maryland Eastern Shore, Morgan State, Norfolk State, North Carolina A&T State and South Carolina State. Steeped in tradition, this group of state-supported and pri-

vately funded institutions was founded in the mid-1800s.

NUE-TV's have approximately 2,700 male and female student-athletes participating in intercollegiate athletics. MEAC schools have almost 70,000 students currently enrolled and more than 300,000 degree.

"We are excited about the agreement," said MEAC Commissioner Charles S. Harris, a Hampton University graduate entering his fifth year at the helm of the conference. "For our viewers, this is the fulfillment of a significant programming void for African Americans. For MEAC, it is an opportunity to be affiliated with a first-class organization with an initiative that extends our reach to fans of high-quality African American sports and programming."

Under Harris' leadership, MEAC has garnered the support of a bevy of corporate sponsors including Bank of America, Nike, U.S. Airways, and Coca Cola to name a few.

"This agreement gives what we believe is the preeminent African American sports conference the type of visibility that no one else has ever had," said Harris who has more than 25 years of athletic administration experience.

NUE-TV, which will launch on cable, digital cable and direct satellite television this summer, provides world-class news, sports, entertainment and information services to and for African Americans and other people of color.

## Black driver breaking racial barriers



By Chelsea J. Carter

IRVINE, Calif. (AP) — David Francis Jr. is breaking track records and racial barriers.

The black driver who once used racing to help keep him out of gangs is now trying to win over CART sponsors and fans in a sport long dominated by whites.

"I'm not just knocking on the door trying to get in to this club. I'm banging at it so hard, eventually I'm going to knock it down," he said.

He is one of the three major U.S. racing circuits — NASCAR's Winston Cup, CART and the Indy Racing League — there are only a handful of black and American-born Hispanic drivers who have raced consistently, including NASCAR Hall of Famer Wendell Scott and Willy T. Ribbs, who has driven in CART.

Aware of the lack of diversity in motorsports, racing circuits are taking steps to court black drivers. Last year, CART created a driver development program to promote minority participation.

Although Francis had only been racing professionally for a few years, he caught CART's attention with his performance in the 1998 Barber Dodge Pro Series, setting track records in Sebring, Fla., and Phoenix, Ariz. He finished the season fourth out of 108 drivers.

"He stood out from a potential talent standpoint," said Ron Richards, CART's vice president of communications. "And because sponsors are so important to our business, we also think this is a guy who could effectively represent the company."

But the diversity program didn't help Francis come up with the \$1.1 million in sponsorship money needed to run a car in the next step up — the Toyota Atlantic Pro Series.

As a result, the 26-year-old Francis has spent much of the season sitting on the sideline, trying to raise enough money to be able to compete in the last half of this season.

"It's difficult to raise sponsors in this sport no matter who you are," he said. "But I think a lot of sponsors think there are no African-American racing fans because they don't see them at the track."

"For many years, a lot of African-Americans felt they weren't invited, especially when you had these fans walking around with Confederate flags," he said. "But I know there are African-American fans. I'm one of them."

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### INTRODUCTORY GYMNASTICS COURSE

The Monmouth County Park System invites youngsters ages 6-10 to "Introduction to Gymnastics" on Saturday, May 6-27 at the Shrewsbury Gymnastics School on Broad St. in Shrewsbury. Parents will be notified in advance with the exact class time. Students will be introduced to basic gymnastic events and the trampoline. The fee for the course is \$34, and registration is required. For more information or to register, call the Park System (732) 642-4000.

### PHOENIX SUNS RODNEY ROGERS WINS NBA SIXTH MAN AWARD

NBA's "Sixth Man Award" this year went to Phoenix Suns forward Rodney Rogers, who averaged 13.8 points and 5.5 rebounds coming off the bench. He earned 88 percent of the votes as the league's most notable sixth man, a very important role. He played in all 82 games of the season.

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